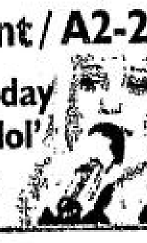
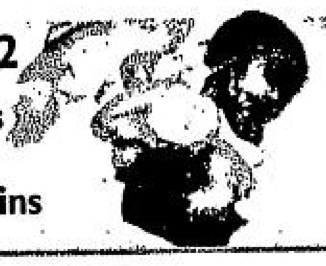


- **Entertainment / A2-2** Final face-off today on 'American Idol' Bo vs Carrie
- **Sports / A26** Detroit stuns Miami in NBA East finals
- **News / A2** Death claims conjoined Garganta twins



- **Across / A18** Focus on 'jueteng' takes eyes off Visayas gambling
- **News / A2** 4 dead in PAF plane crash in Baguio

Cholesterol is good for sex, says heart doc

YAHOOOO! BACK TO SITSARON AND LITSON!

By Lynett A. Villariba

TAKE it from the heart doctor: If you want a healthy sex life, you need cholesterol.

Lowering cholesterol levels beyond the normal

CHOLESTEROL/ A5

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Mikey also leaving town; Mike A in US, say reports

By Michael Lim Ubac

LIKE HIS father, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo is leaving town.

But his trip to the United States— "for a series of meetings with Filipino-Americans" scheduled for next week—should not be interpreted as a flight from justice, the eldest child of President

MIKEY/ A5

No more 'jueteng' in 3 regions–PNP

Illegal game still alive in S. Luzon

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THREE DAYS after Malacañang launched an all-out war on illegal numbers games, the Philippine National police yesterday claimed it had stamped out "jueteng" in three regions—but field reports indicated several provinces and towns were still in the grip of gambling lords.

Among the casualties of the campaign was President Macapagal-Arroyo's home province of Pampanga, PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao unequivocally declared.

None of the PNP senior officials present at Lomibao's press conference could say how long Pampanga and the other known jueteng areas would stay free of the underground lottery.

Lomibao gave police commanders in areas where jueteng still flourished 48 hours to eradicate the menace.

Asked when the PNP would go after big-time jueteng operators, Lomibao sounded less emphatic.

"That will come later because you cannot just take out the so-called known big fish until we have the evidence to support it," he said.

"It may be unpopular but it's a matter of evidence so we can file a case against them and prosecute them."

Lomibao rattled off the areas where he said jueteng had disappeared.

"We would like to report to you that Region I [Ilocos] is jueteng-free, according to the regional director. Region II [Cagayan Valley] is zero; Region III [Central Luzon] is zero," Lomibao told reporters after a command conference at Camp Crame.

Jueteng has also been cleared

NO MORE/ A20

DETAINEE
DETAINEE
DETAINEE
DETAINEE
EPD
DETAINEE
EPD
DETAINEE

VAL HANDUMON

ALL BETS are off—at least for now—for these "jueteng" collectors who were arrested in different parts of Luzon, hauled off to Camp Crame and presented to the media on Tuesday by PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao to show that the government is dead serious in its campaign to eradicate the illegal numbers game.

Solon scores delay in 'jueteng' inquiry

By Philip C. Tubeza

IS SOMEBODY trying to stonewall the "jueteng" investigation?

With only two more weeks to go before Congress adjourns, a senior lawmaker yesterday scored the delay in the House of Representatives' inquiry into the jueteng payola scandal.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez deplored the cancellation of today's scheduled hearing of the House committee on public order and security on the allegations of Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz that high government officials had received jueteng bribes.

Golez said he had hoped the committee investigation, which had been in hiatus for nearly a month, would be completed before Congress' first regular session adjourns on June 10.

"This is needed because we only have two more weeks to go. *Baka merong nagdi*-dribble *ng bola* (Maybe there is someone who is dribbling the ball)," Golez said.

"Any delay is, of course, going to affect adversely the momentum of this inquiry," he added.

The hearing's cancellation came after House Minority Leader Francis Escudero called on the committee to subpoena President Macapagal-Arroyo's son, Pampanga Rep.

SOLON/ A7

DOJ says witness has evidence against governor

By Armand N. Nocum and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said a female board member had provided evidence showing the existence of the illegal numbers game in Southern Luzon and the possible involvement of a governor in "jueteng."

Also yesterday, Gonzalez ordered city, provincial and regional prosecutors to review pending antigambling cases all over the country and to submit to him the names of "persons who paid for their bail."

"Tracing the persons who paid the bail bond could lead us to the operators and financiers of jueteng operations," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

At the Palace, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said jueteng lords and coddlers might not get caught by authorities for their illegal numbers game operations but they could go to jail for tax evasion, just like Chicago gangster Al Capone.

But Kim Henares, deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, said it would be difficult to pursue cases against them. "As we investigate more sophisticated people, we must be sure of our evidence and that takes time," Henares said in the same briefing in Malacañang.

Before filing a tax evasion case against a jueteng lord, Henares said: "We have to have all of the evidence of their assets and this evidence is not in the hands of the (BIR). We have to get certifications from other government agencies and we must make sure that these agencies will not turn around and testify that it is wrong when we file the cases."

In an impromptu press briefing, Gonzalez said the female board member furnished him documents on jueteng operations in her area

DOJ SAYS/ A6

Hard times descend on 'jueteng' dependents

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—The ban on "jueteng" clamped in Angeles this month has severely hit its main cadre of workers—the bet collectors—with fatal and tragic consequences.

In Salapungan, a village within the city's so-called University Belt, Alfredo Licup, 56, died Friday. Without his collection earnings, he was unable to buy his anti-asthma medicine.

Emelita Dizon on Tuesday said she had no money to pay for her son's school fees in his last semester in college. A father was considering stealing scrap metal to feed his family that day.

The plight of these three individuals reflects the situation of the families of jueteng collectors, or *"cobradores,"* in Salapungan following the ban on jueteng in the first week of May.

Mayor Carmelo Lazatin said the erstwhile small-town activity had become a veritable industry with a

HARD TIMES/ A8

'For sale' story irks PNP chief

By Luige A. del Puerto and Dona Pazzibugan

YOU MUST be dreaming if you think that having a powerful backer will get you a plum post in the Philippine National Police.

This, at least, was the contention of the PNP leadership as it denied accusations that some posts were "for sale" to those willing to share their alleged "jueteng" payoffs with a relative of a high government official.

"We maintain that the PNP has its system of selecting the best qualified senior officials for key posts

FOR SALE/ A6

'MILESTONE OR MILLSTONE?'

Controversial VAT bill finally a law

VAT ni GLORIA

ERIK ARAZAS

VAT it's all about. Militants hold a rally near Malacañang to protest the new tax measure that is seen to trigger a new round of increases in the prices of consumer goods.

By Christine O. Avendaño

WITHOUT fanfare, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday signed the expanded value-added tax (VAT) measure aimed at reducing the country's yawning budget deficit amid protests by activists, businessmen and economists.

The administration's biggest revenue-raising measure, which encountered rough sailing in Congress, ends VAT exemptions enjoyed by certain industries, such as power, electricity, air and sea transport, and gives Ms Arroyo standby authority to raise

CONTROVERSIAL/ A8

EDWIN BACASMAS

SMILES all around at the Palace as lawmakers watch President Macapagal-Arroyo sign the controversial expanded VAT measure. Also affixing their signatures are Senate President Franklin Drilon (left) and Speaker Jose de Venecia (right).

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with light rains. Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/05/25/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Opposition kicks Enrile out of appointments body

By TJ Burgonio

THE RIFT in the Senate opposition further deepened yesterday after Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. declared that Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile was no longer the opposition representative to the congressional Commission on Appointments.

"Recent incidents in the Commission on Appointments have shown that Mr. Enrile is not speaking on behalf of the minority members of the CA anymore," Pimentel announced on the floor, but declined to go into details.

Pimentel's announcement drew a stinging rebuke from Enrile, who insisted that his membership in the CA was based on his affiliation with a political party and not his membership in the minority bloc.

"I don't owe my position to the minority leader or to anybody that does not belong to my party," said a furious Enrile.

Pimentel said that he and opposition Senators Sergio Osmeña, Panfilo Lacson, Luisa Ejercito, Jinggoy Estrada, Alfredo Lim and Jamby Madrigal had reached a decision to drop Enrile as their representative to the CA during a caucus last Monday.

Madrigal was designated as Enrile's replacement.

The minority faction that ousted Enrile from the CA formed a majority of seven out of nine opposition senators in the Senate. The two other opposition senators are Enrile and Sen. Edgardo Angara.

Osmeña said the group had observed that Enrile, who was elected by the minority bloc to the CA, had been endorsing Malacañang appointees in recent hearings.

It was Enrile who moved that the CA committee on environment dispense with the opposition filed by Madrigal and some bishops against Environment Secretary Michael Defensor in last Tuesday's hearing, Osmeña recalled.

In his opposition to his being dropped from the CA, Enrile cited Sec. 8, Article II of the Constitution which provides that legislators are elected to the CA "on the basis of proportional representation."

"Our right and claim to being members of the CA does not spring from the nomination of a minority leader that we designated for convenience," Enrile said.

Angara agreed with Enrile that membership in the CA was based on party affiliation.

But he said that during the 9th Congress, the Senate had decided to allocate CA membership based on affiliation with either the majority or minority bloc.

Angara also deplored the "irregularity" with which one faction in the minority bloc could oust another "without consultation."

This drew a retort from Osmeña who said: "I don't think he (Angara) considers himself a bona fide member of the minority."

Pimentel said the bloc didn't feel the need to notify Enrile who "by his words and actions has ostracized himself" from the opposition, and Angara who he said had never attended their caucuses.

After a heated debate, Enrile moved that the chamber decide on the issue within the day, prompting Senate President Franklin Drilon to call for a suspension of the session.

When the session resumed, administration Sen. Manuel Roxas repeated an earlier proposal that the minority members thresh out the matter among themselves.

Angara said the minority had decided to do just that after a brief meeting.

But Osmeña said the issue had already been decided and added, "The majority has no business to tell us to go back to the caucus."

At this point, Enrile withdrew his motion but maintained his position that his membership in the CA was based on his affiliation with the Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

Seeing no end to the debate, the Senate adjourned shortly after.

Death claims conjoined Garganta twins

By Christian V. Esguerra

DEATH came sooner than expected for conjoined twins Angel May and Angela Garganta.

The twins succumbed to a complicated heart condition at 2:30 p.m. yesterday, just 26 days after they were born joined together from the chest to the waist.

If it was any consolation, their parents Reynaldo and Vilma got their wish to bring the babies home alive, after two weeks of an intense but futile treatment at the Philippine General Hospital.

The twins died nearly three hours after arriving at their home in Sawang Uson in Masbate, according to Dr. Michael Tee, PGH spokesperson.

The twins' father said the other day he had accepted the fact that his daughters could not escape their fate considering their serious condition—they shared a heart and liver and were battling a blood infection.

"All we want now is to take them home while they're still alive and leave the rest to the Lord," Reynaldo had told reporters on Tuesday.

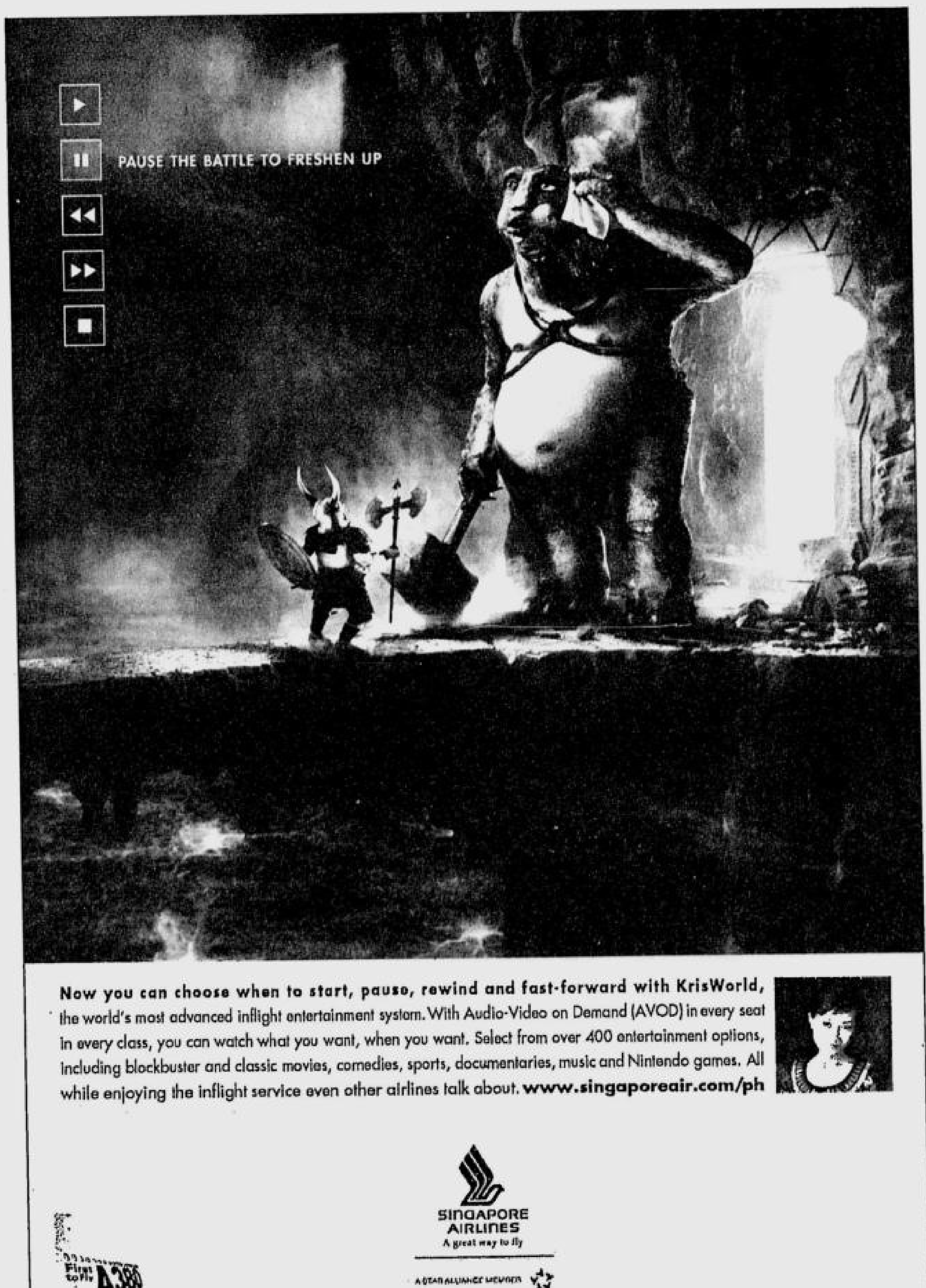
Reynaldo and Vilma were initially hopeful a successful operation would separate their children. They were told by doctors that their babies' condition, "thoracopagus," was actually the most common of conjoined births.

But hope dimmed after subsequent tests showed that the twins shared one heart, including a vast network of intertwined coronary blood vessels, and one liver.

Pediatric cardiologist Dr. Jonas del Rosario, a member of the PGH team composed of at least 20 specialists, admitted Tuesday that it was unlikely either of the twins would survive an operation to separate them.

All is not lost, however, for Reynaldo, a fisherman who had to seek the help of the Philippine National Red Cross for his children's treatment.

Sen. Richard Gordon, PNRC chair, had pledged a livelihood loan for the Gargantas no matter what happened to their children, their first-born.



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2 groups of PPI clients set rallies

TWO OPPOSING groups of Pacific Plans Inc. plan holders are resorting to prayer and "people power" in their campaign in support of and against the rehabilitation petition of the troubled preneed company.

The groups are to hold separate masses and protest actions in Makati today to coincide with the first court hearing on the rehabilitation petition of PPI in the Makati Regional Trial Court.

The Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEP Coalition), the plan holders opposed to the PPI rehab plan, will hold their mass at the St. Andrew's Parish in Bel-Air, Makati, at 8 a.m. The mass will be officiated by running priest Fr. Robert Reyes.

After the mass, the PEP Coalition will march to the Makati City Hall where they will hold a protest rally.

Almost simultaneously, another group of plan holders calling themselves the Alliance of Progressive Plan Holders Inc. (APPI) will hold their own mass at the St. Peter and Paul Parish in Poblacion, Makati.

APPI will also hold its own rally at the Makati City Hall in support of the rehab plan. *Alcuin Papa*

A SOLDIER guards the crash site of the PAF training plane near Loakan airport in Baguio City. Four Air Force officers died in the mishap.

TOOTS SOBERANO

Air Force training plane crash kills 4

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A Philippine Air Force T-41D training plane crashed shortly after takeoff from Loakan Airport here at noon Tuesday, killing the flight instructor and two of the three pilot-trainees. The third trainee died later in a hospital.

The Air Force identified the fatalities as Lt. Roberto Manlongat Jr., the flight instructor, and Lieutenants Aristotle Anguluan Jr., Randy Gabriel and Dennis Abaygar.

The four were on a training exercise when they landed their converted Cessna 172 in Baguio, according to the PAF tactical operations group at Loakan. They were to fly on to the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga before proceeding to Batangas where the PAF Flying School is located, said Vicente Tomazar, Cordillera director of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD).

PMA officials said Manlongat belonged to Philippine Military Academy Class 2000, while the three trainees belonged to Class 2001.

Manlongat, Anguluan and Gabriel died from the impact, while Abaygar survived, according to rescue worker Rafael Valencia.

"They were twisted inside the cockpit. They could not survive the impact of the plane hitting the cliff side," Valencia said.

Abaygar was rushed to Baguio General Hospital where he died while undergoing treatment.

Col. Edgardo Mendoza, commander of the PAF tactical operations group, ordered an investigation of the crash and asked for an independent autopsy of the crewmen's bodies.

The plane crashed facing the airport, about 200 meters from the runway, suggesting the pilot at the controls at the time, Anguluan, had tried to return to Loakan, PMA officials said.

Tomazar said area residents saw the plane's wing get entangled in the power lines near the Atok Trail as it turned to the left before crashing in a forest behind the Texas Instruments Phil. Inc. (TIPI) compound.

"This whole area was covered in fog... it's really hard to navigate Baguio's airspace when the fog sets in," a PAF officer said.

The plane narrowly missed a house but left a long trail of broken pine trees along the cliff beside the TIPI compound.

"I thought it would hit us but it flew over our heads. Then we heard a loud explosion, and then it was very quiet," said a local resident. *With Nikko Dizon, Manila, and Frank Cimatu and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Fil-Aussie turns down compensation package

SYDNEY—A Filipino-Australian woman wrongly deported to the Philippines four years ago has refused Australian government offers to fly her home until Canberra agrees to a bigger compensation package, her lawyers said Tuesday.

Vivian Alvarez, 42, was discovered living at a hospice for the dying in Olongapo City last week after Australian immigration officials said they had been unable to locate her since her wrongful deportation in 2001.

Her ordeal added to controversy already swirling around the tough immigration policies of Australia's conservative government, after revelations that a German-born legal resident had been mistakenly held for 10 months at a detention camp for illegal immigrants.

The government sent a social worker to Manila on Monday to bring Alvarez home, but her lawyers blocked the move, saying Canberra's offer of financial help for their client fell well short of meeting her needs.

"When she comes back she needs proper accommodations, she needs medical care, she needs caregivers," said George Newhouse, a Sydney lawyer who has taken up Alvarez's cause.

"We've explained that to her and we've compared what she needs with what the government has offered and there is a large gap," Newhouse said on ABC radio Tuesday.

Newhouse said Alvarez, also known as Vivian Young, wants to avoid legal action against the government but they had advised her to stay in the Philippines until her repatriation was fully worked out.

Prime Minister John Howard told Parliament a welfare official had explained to Alvarez the government's offer of assistance, including free medical treatment and rehabilitation.

The government is willing to pay Alvarez's airfare plus a return fare for a relative or nurse to accompany her from Manila, Howard said.

She would be assigned a case manager to ensure she had regular access to counseling and advisers and was able to access her welfare entitlements, including a pension and rent assistance, Howard said.

Howard said the government placed no conditions on Alvarez's return to Australia, where she has two sons.

"If any conditions are attached to her return to Australia ... they will be preconditions of her choosing, not the government's," he said. *AFP, AP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Palace to accept Señeres' offer to quit

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will accept the resignation of the man she had earlier accused of being a destabilizer.

In a news briefing and in a radio interview yesterday, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President was expected to accept the resignation of Roy Señeres, when he steps down today as chair of the National Labor Relations Commission.

Bunye said Señeres' decision to quit was a personal decision, apparently quashing speculations that Malacañang had pressured the latter to turn in his resignation.

"What we can say, considering the circumstances, in all probability his resignation will be accepted," Bunye told reporters.

Asked whether Malacañang will try to ask Señeres to reconsider his decision, Bunye said the pronouncements of the labor official showed that he had already made up his mind.

Bunye also denied that the Palace had asked Señeres to give up his post when asked by reporters, saying "it was his decision."

Interviewed over dzRH radio, Bunye said he had no information yet on the possible replacement for Señeres at the NLRC.

Señeres announced the other day his plan to quit, saying that the President was no longer happy with him and that the feeling was mutual.

Last April, Ms Arroyo confronted Señeres and accused him of plotting to destabilize the government during a meeting with then US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone and a military official.

The President reportedly disclosed this fact in a meeting with labor leaders a few weeks later.

Señeres, however, had denied the allegations.

On Labor Day, Ms Arroyo announced that she was transferring supervision of the NLRC from the Office of the President to the office of the labor secretary.

Señeres denounced the President's move, saying it was illegal and would require an amendment of the Labor Code.

How to carry P130M: Court to set guidelines

GOVERNMENT prosecutors and lawyers of deposed President Joseph Estrada have been asked by the Sandiganbayan to set the parameters of the proposed ocular inspection at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to determine if one man could carry P130 million in cash.

The proposal to settle the issue at the BSP was brought to the antigraft court two weeks ago by Estrada's counsel Rene Saguisag in a bid to disprove claims by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson that he delivered the multimillion-peso tobacco excise tax kickbacks to the former president through his gambling buddy, Charlie "Atong" Ang.

Singson said in his sworn statement that he brought the cash to Estrada's residence at No. 1 Polk Street in Greenhills, San Juan on Aug. 31, 1998.

Singson also said that he was met by Ang on Buchanan and Polk Streets, some 112 meters from Estrada's residence when they delivered the money. He later followed Ang to the house of the ousted president.

The defense panel, however, claimed that it was impossible to carry the P130 million by one man.

"Even if it was carried in four boxes, we have determined that it is not possible to bring the said amount," another Estrada lawyer, former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas said.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said that except for Saguisag, nobody was claiming, Singson included, that the money was carried in bulk at one time to Estrada's house.

Two weeks ago, the Sandiganbayan's Special Division postponed the presentation of the P130 million cash and the reenactment of its alleged delivery to the former president by Singson.

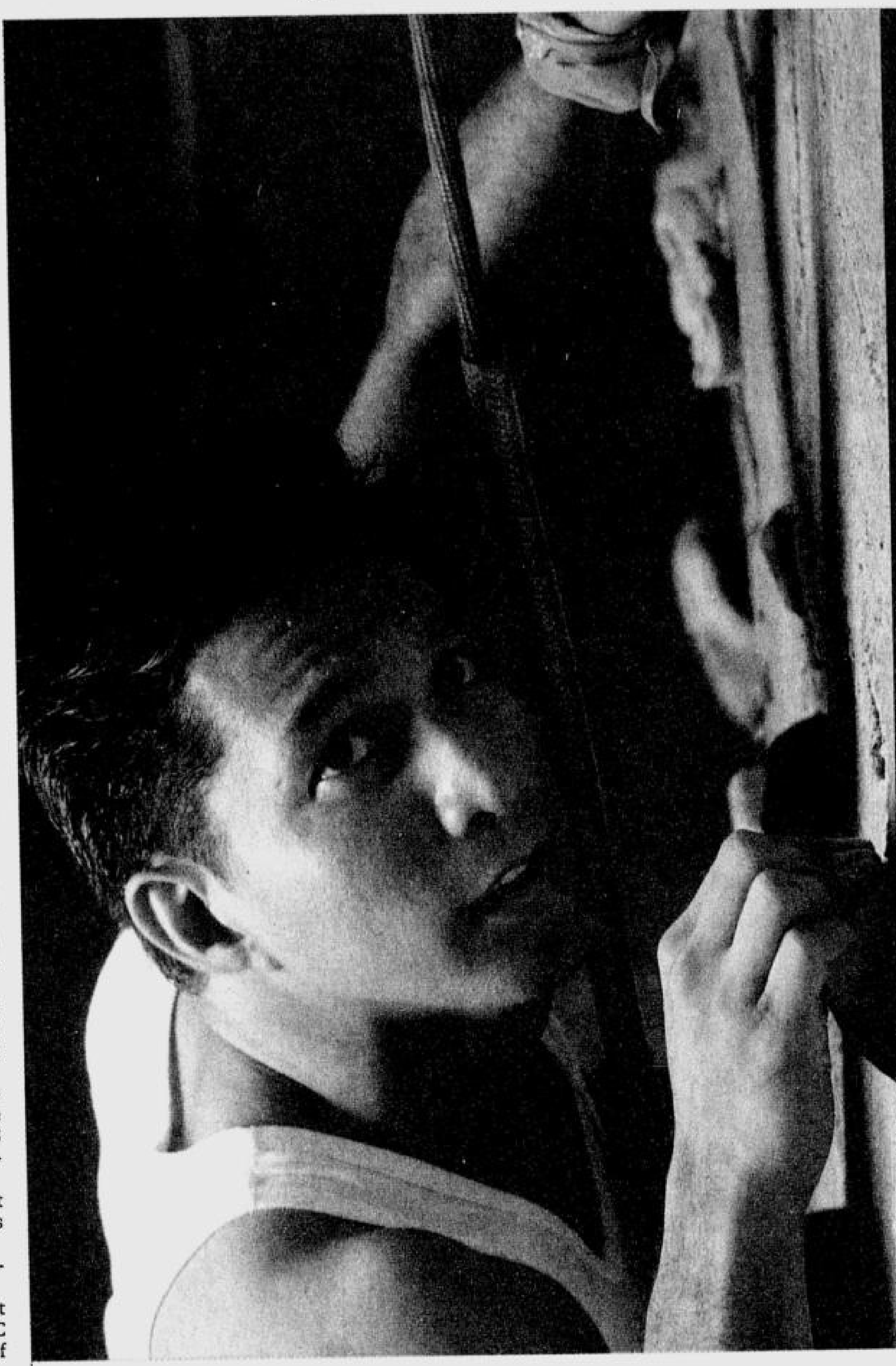
"Both parties should agree on the parameters otherwise there is no point in staging the ocular inspection," said Associate Justice Francisco Villaruz. *Nelson Flores*

F. Nigos; 98

FLORENTINA Soriano Nigos of Luna, La Union and widow of the late Esteban Nigos Sr. died on Sunday at the age of 98.

She is survived by children Ricardo and Angelita, Flora, Amado and Dominga, Patricio and Marcelina, Esteban Jr. and Fely, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Three siblings – Sotero, Rogelio and Cristino had passed away earlier.

Her remains lie at the family residence at Barangay Bungro, Luna, La Union. Interment is set for today.



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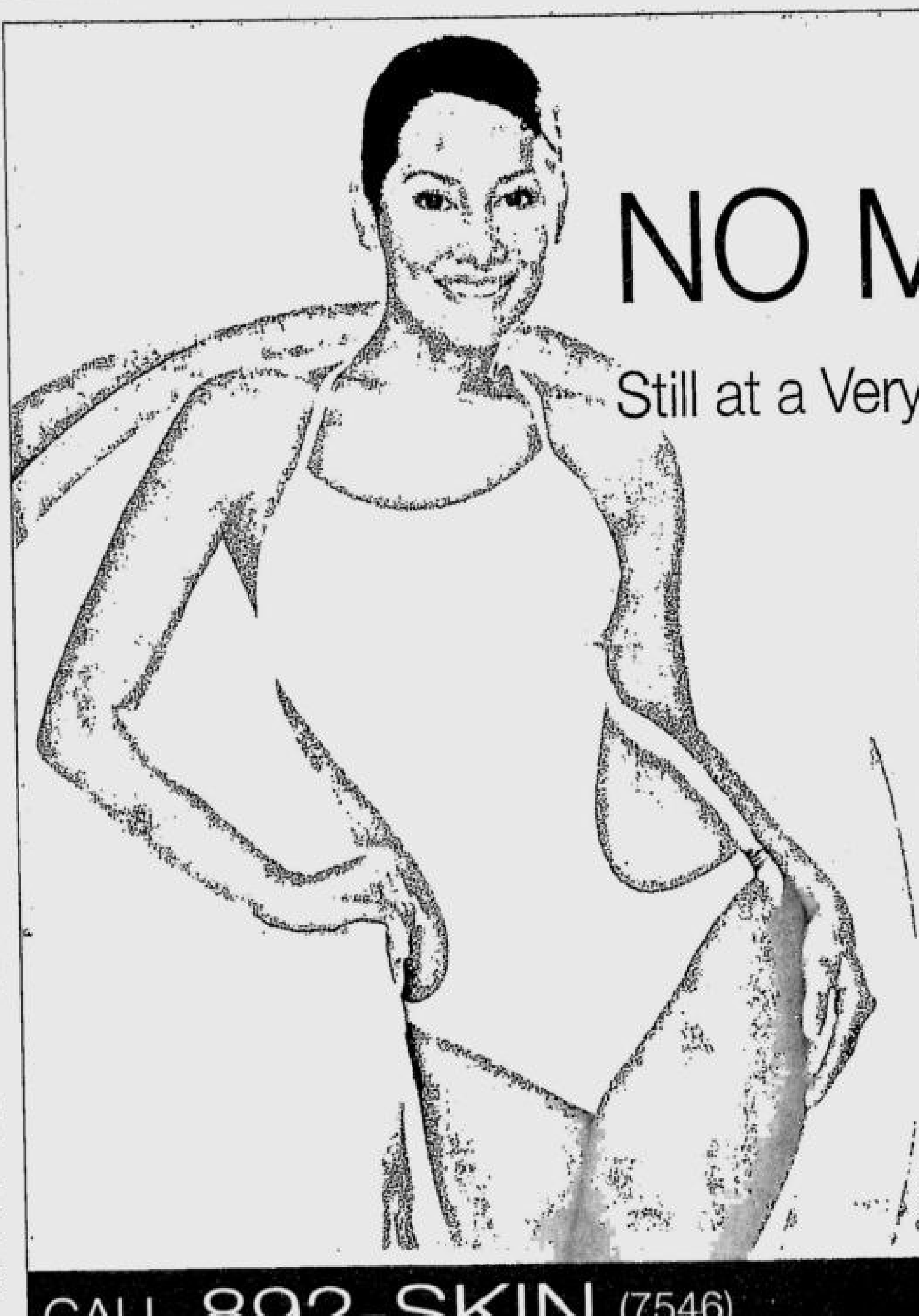

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Accountant joins Pacquiao's corner in bid to settle tax liabilities

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Ring sensation Manny Pacquiao has hired an accountant to review his tax liabilities, a revenue official here said yesterday.

Eric Furia, revenue district officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) here, said Pacquiao has already pledged to settle his tax obligations.

The BIR office here has given the pugilist until end of this month to settle his dues with the agency.

Furia said even if Pacquiao has already pledged to pay his dues, the BIR would still look into his income from 1995 up to present.

Aside from the talent fees and prizes won from his fights, Pacquiao has also become a celebrity-endorser for several products including Talk and Text and Smart cellular phone, Burlington socks, Alaxan, Surf laundry soap, Family rubbing alcohol, Pony and No Fear sports wear and Red Bull.

He said the BIR was looking forward to collecting "millions" from the boxing idol.

Last month, BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno wrote Pacquiao a letter, asking him to put his income tax records in order.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Korean slain in P3-M rob

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Robbers killed a Korean executive of an electronics firm and ran off with his company's P3 million payroll along the national highway in Kawit, Cavite on Monday. Police said Seok Soo Lee, vice president of Keyrin Electronics Inc., died on the way to the hospital.

Police said the victim and his driver were on a Nissan Cefiro on their way to the firm's factory in Rosario town when they forced to stop as a motorcycle sideswiped the right side mirror of their vehicle while approaching the Binakayan-Tejeros Bypass Road.

When Dimaandal alighted from the car to check the damage, the two men on board immediately announced the holdup. A third suspect suddenly appeared and ordered Seok to hand over the attaché case containing the money. When he refused, the victim was shot by one of the suspects in the upper right leg.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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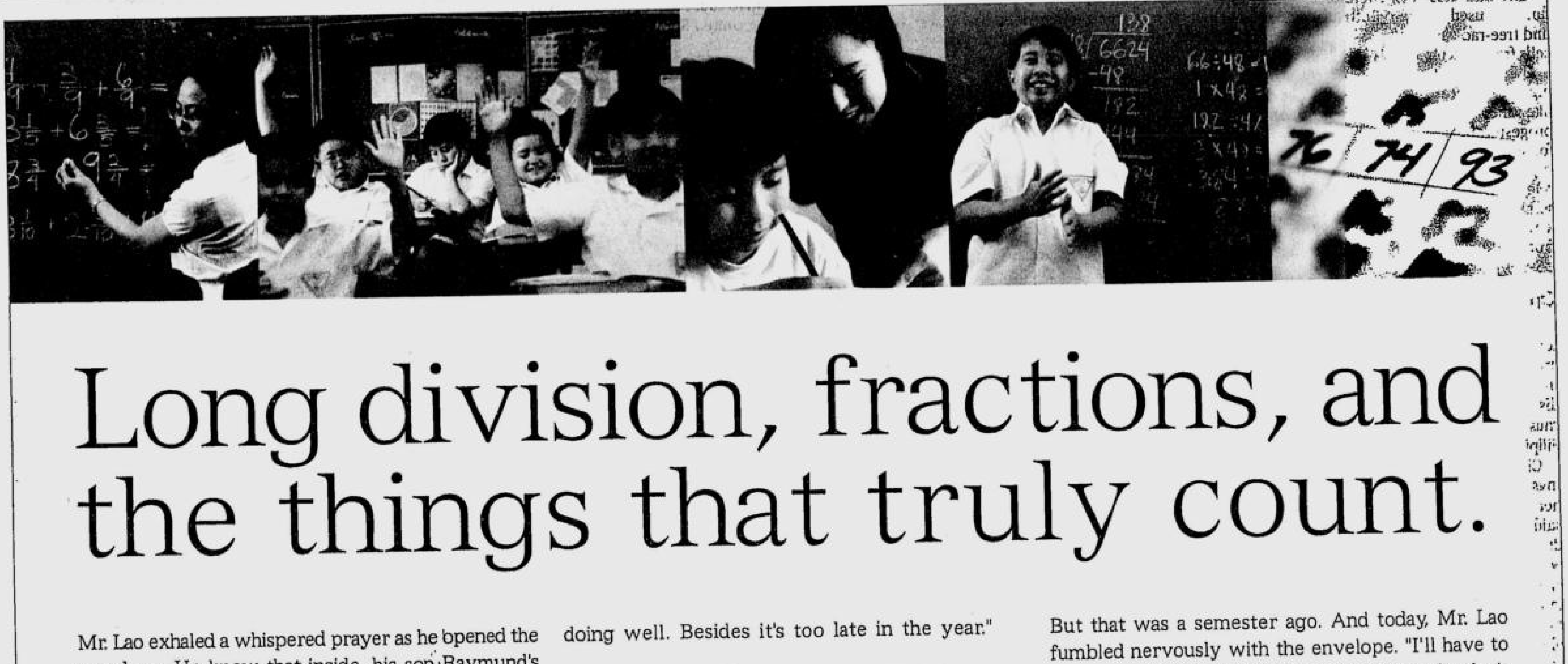

Long division, fractions, and the things that truly count.

Mr. Lao exhaled a whispered prayer as he opened the envelope. He knew that inside, his son Raymund's latest grades would be waiting, and he wasn't too hopeful. Raymund hadn't been doing well since early in the school year and he could see no reason for things to be better this quarter. "He lacks concentration," his teacher said. "It's like when he sees numbers he turns away so he can look at other things instead." Mr. Lao closed the envelope again.

"Pare, don't worry. Raymund will be fine. I used to hate math myself. And I'm a banker." That's what Ernie had told Mr. Lao over coffee as they studied the latest financials of Mr. Lao's linen business. Ernie was Mr. Lao's banker at iBank. He took care of Mr. Lao's corporate account, and was used to dropping by his office to facilitate transactions. "Maybe I can find a tutor for him," Ernie offered.

Mr. Lao had wanted to say "Thanks, but I've already tried and no tutor wants to take him on. They're too concerned about helping students who are already doing well. Besides it's too late in the year."

But he didn't say that. Something in Ernie's manner sparked a sense of hope in Mr. Lao. So instead, "Thanks, Ernie. I'd really appreciate it."

And Ernie did find a tutor. "She helps my sister's son with his math lessons, too, so she knows what she's doing. Besides, she's really patient. Mahusay talaga," he explained.

Mr. Lao had been really thankful then. Specially when he saw the renewed eagerness with which Raymund tackled even the trickiest fractions.

"You didn't have to, Ernie. But thank you so much. Salamat."

"Anything to help, sir."

But that was a semester ago. And today, Mr. Lao fumbled nervously with the envelope. "I'll have to recommend him to transfer schools if his grades don't get better," the teacher had said. Mr. Lao drew out the card. Amid a jumble of mid to high line of eights it stood out rather plainly:

Math: 93.

Raymund had apparently done his job. So had the tutor. And Ernie as well.

Chuckling at his own lack of faith, Mr. Lao got up, and got ready to drop by the bank.

He had some thank yous to make.

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Mikey also leaving town

From page A1

Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

The neophyte lawmaker's father, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, flew to Singapore at about 8:25 a.m. on Friday, a day after a supposed "jueteng" operator and two bagmen claimed that they had given or collected protection money for the Arroyos. Father and son have denied the allegation.

Mike Arroyo's whereabouts were unknown even to Malacañang officials. But the word at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport was that the President's husband took a connecting flight to San Francisco from Singapore later on Friday.

"I'm sure that our detractors will again claim that I'm skipping town to avoid the jueteng controversy," said Congressman Arroyo.

He said such a conclusion was "part and parcel of the black propaganda campaign that is being waged against the administration." However, he said, he would not be deterred from "meeting earlier commitments as representative of the people of Pampanga."

"And I feel it is important that we go [on] with our lives and responsibilities, and attend to important concerns and sectors like our supportive Filipino community in the US," he said.

Not sure

Asked if Mike Arroyo was in San Francisco, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said: "I'm not really sure. We know that the First Gentleman has been in Singapore in the past few days."

Bunye said he presumed that the First Gentleman had kept in touch with the President, who announced last Saturday an all-out war against all illegal numbers games.

According to Bunye, there was no need for the President's husband to cut short his trip abroad and return to the Philippines because formal investigations on his alleged involvement in jueteng had yet to start.

"If there is an actual investigation and he will be invited, we'll leave it at that. It's up to the investigation body to issue the invitation," he said at a briefing.

Bunye said the First Gentleman would attend any hearing if summoned, and pointed out that the latter, along with his brother, Negros Occ. Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, was present at the 2003 Senate inquiry on the "Jose Pidal" bank accounts.

In that inquiry, called on the basis of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's claim that the accounts contained contributions to his wife's campaign, Mike Arroyo parried lawmakers' questions by repeatedly invoking his right to privacy.

Guest of honor

Mikey Arroyo said the invitation to visit Filipino communities in America was "transmitted [to] and accepted" by his office as far back as November 2004.

He said he was scheduled to attend five events, including the Philippine Independence Day Ball of the Filipino-American Council of Greater Chicago, where he would be the guest of honor and speaker.

He gave the INQUIRER a copy of a letter from council president Herminio R. Poblete dated Nov. 29, 2004, inviting him and his wife to the June 4 "Kasarinlan" celebration.

He did not say when he would return. Congress has sessions only until June 12.

But the lawmaker said he would "fully cooperate" with the planned jueteng investigation.

"We are confident that we will be vindicated. We are sure that people will discover that this is merely a propaganda ploy that has no basis in truth," he said.

Bad timing

But House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the trip was not a good idea.

"I'm not casting aspersions on him, but the trip is really bad timing. It doesn't help in any way in clearing their names as regards the jueteng allegations," Escudero said.

Responding to comments that his father's trip abroad "constituted flight" and was "in itself an admission of guilt," Mikey Arroyo said: "That is a malicious insinuation that has no place in responsible political discourse. Just because he is fulfilling his scheduled commitments abroad does not mean he is admitting that there is any sort of truth to these ridiculous charges. And it is not in our blood to evade responsibility or back down from any challenge.

"My father embarked on his trip despite the controversy. This should be taken as a sign of strength and innocence, because he is determined to go on with his life despite the false and malicious attacks in the media."

Earlier, lawyer Jess Santos said the First Gentleman's trip was a long-planned vacation with his siblings.

Transit point

An airline officer told the INQUIRER they had been hearing since Friday that Singapore was merely Mike Arroyo's transit point to the United States.

According to the officer, Singapore Airlines has two connecting flights—SQ 02 and SQ 16—to San Francisco from Singapore.

"I heard he took the SQ 02 flight, which left Singapore at 5 p.m. on Friday," the officer said.

The other flight leaves for San Francisco at 9:15 a.m.

San Francisco is known to be among the usual destinations of Ms Arroyo and her family when they go to the United States on personal trips. It has been reported that they have property there.

An official of the Manila International Airport Authority told the INQUIRER that the MIAA had yet to be informed of Mike Arroyo's return.

The MIAA often extends assistance to government officials and members of the First Family on their departure or arrival. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Nikko Dizon*

Cholesterol is good for sex, says heart doc

From page A1

also lowers the libido, cardiologist Conrado Dayrit warned. If that happens, he told his audience at a recent symposium in Manila, "it would make us function like vegetables, unable to rise to the occasion."

Dayrit, a former president of the Philippine Heart Association and the World Health Organization's expert on cardiovascular disease, rose to the defense of cholesterol against the anti-saturated fat hysteria.

Like saturated fats, cholesterol stands unfairly accused, he said. Both are antioxidants and free-radical scavengers that protect body cells from cancer.

Cholesterol is also responsible for that loving feeling because it unleashes sex hormones like androgen, testosterone, estrogen and progesterone. It is also important to the body for adrenalin and cell building.

If cholesterol fuels the brain receptors that release natural "feel good" chemicals, then someone displaying aggressive behavior and a tendency to depression may be suffering from lack of cholesterol, said Dayrit, also a US-trained pharmacologist.

Only after oxidation

Most of all, cholesterol is not the artery-clogging culprit that has made heart disease the No. 1 cause of death among Filipinos, he said.

Citing new findings in the study of heart disease, Dayrit said that more than dietary cholesterol, it was the inflammatory process, microbial infection and free-radical injury to blood vessels that were contributing to the killer ailment.

But don't go stuffing yourself with fat-laden *lechon* just yet.

"When cholesterol gets oxidized by rancid food oils in the body, it becomes artery-clogging," Dayrit said.

Naturopath and nutritionist Dr. Bruce Fife—who, along with scientists Vermen Verallo-Rowell and Fabian Dayrit, also spoke at the symposium—said what mattered was the ratio of total blood cholesterol to good cholesterol carried by the high density lipoprotein (HDL) for elimination.

A high total blood cholesterol level indicates the liver's deployment of the repair substance in large amounts when arteries are irritated or weak, said Fife, who is best known for his book "Coconut Oil Miracles."

But it does not reflect the state of your heart's health unless balanced by an elevated HDL cholesterol level protective of the heart, he said.

Bicolano model

Dayrit belied the claim that all saturated fats increased blood cholesterol levels that caused heart disease and atherosclerosis.

He cited a 1974 study that found Bicolanos—whose diet is rich in saturated coconut oil—to have a below-normal serum cholesterol level.

"If it is true that coconut oil causes heart disease, then coconut-consuming Filipinos, Indonesians, Sri Lankans and Polynesians should be dying of heart disease right and left. But they are not. In fact, they have the lowest prevalence of coronary disease," he said.

According to Dayrit, a 20-year study among Polynesian Maoris thriving on high amounts of unadulterated coconut showed an absence of heart disease or hypertension. A similar study of Sri Lankans whose diet is also rich in coconut, but in a less pure state, showed a remarkably low incidence of heart disease.

In another study covering 12 countries to determine the relationship between heart disease mortality and fat calories consumed, the Philippines—the only coconut oil consumer—emerged with the lowest mortality rate.

One fat lie

Dayrit said a listing from the Department of Health showed that even as heart disease was No. 1, Filipinos who succumbed to heart attacks comprised only about 16 percent of all deaths.

In comparison, he said, in 1950, heart disease was found to cause half of the deaths (51 percent) in the United States. Since then and up to the end of the century, Americans had blamed the high heart mortality rates on saturated coconut oil and cholesterol.

But if that were true, he said, why were Bicolanos—who, he pointed out, were getting 62.4 percent of their fat calories from saturated coconut oil—found to have the lowest heart and brain death rates among five regional groups in Luzon?

Dayrit, one-time research committee chair of the Asia-Pacific Society of Cardiology, pointed out that there has been no study demonstrating high blood cholesterol as causing heart disease.

It's all one (saturated) fat lie.

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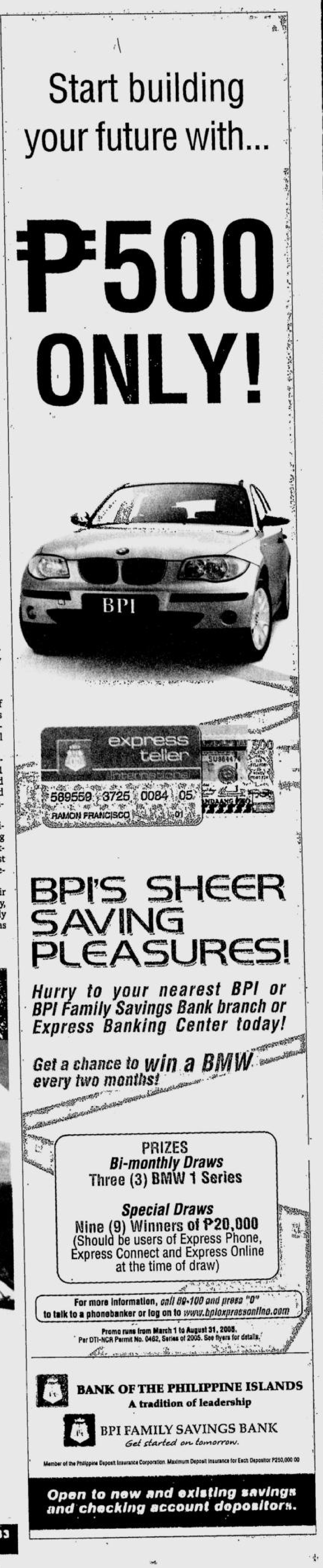
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'For sale' story irks PNP chief

From page A1

and it is religiously followed," PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"We don't consider any influence or any other factors."

The allegation also raised the hackles of the usually reserved PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao.

"That is ridiculing the PNP too much. That is too much of an insult," Lomibao told reporters on Monday.

He said the assignment of posts to field commanders involved a strict process and that officers needed to meet certain requirements before they could be appointed provincial and regional directors.

"For example, they should occupy a [certain] rank."

"For a regional director, he should be a chief superintendent. He should be CSEE (civil service eligibility exam) eligible and so on and so forth," he said.

LOMIBAO PDI PHOTO

'A cruel accusation'

"So what they are saying is too much, and that is cruel as far as the PNP is concerned," Lomibao said.

Retired PNP Director Reynaldo Velasco, formerly deputy chief for administration and chair of the PNP-Senior Officers Placement and Promotions Board, also flatly denied the allegation.

"I was chair of SOPBB. I can honestly tell you straight in the eye that we did not do that," Velasco said.

A professional force

"We never sell assignments but we did our selections on the basis of their qualifications ... We make the PNP as professional as possible."

A retired government official, who asked not to be identified because he said he feared reprisals, had told the INQUIRER that some PNP posts went to officers willing to share their protection money with the unnamed relative of a high official.

The relative's alleged cut could go as high as 60 percent of the gambling payoffs.

Dep't of Finance bucks 'jueteng' legalization

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has opposed a suggestion to legalize "jueteng" as a means of shoring up government revenues, calling it "a cop-out."

Instead, the DOF proposed the merger of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), and the selling of their franchises to the private sector.

"Jueteng is bad. [Legalization] sends the wrong signal. It is a cop-out, a surrender to the criminal elements in our society, and it condones the corruption that jueteng represents," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in a statement.

Purisima said the government would be better off selling the franchises of Pagcor and PCSO to interested gaming operators.

That option would help the government raise revenues through the charging of a one-time franchise fee and by regularly collecting the government's share of the operators' income, he said.

Improving efficiency

The DOF earlier said the rationalization of the government bureaucracy would be one of its strategies to help improve the efficiency of governance.

Purisima also suggested that with the merger of the PCSO and Pagcor, an agency tasked with regulating the two government institutions should be created.

The DOF's statement against the legalization of jueteng followed reports that some government officials, including members of the Cabinet, favored legalization.

A welcome idea

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin was quoted as saying that legalizing jueteng as a source of revenue was a welcome idea, although the government should strictly regulate its operators.

The suggestion to legalize jueteng followed the admission by the government that it was suffering from a fiscal problem characterized by a gaping budget deficit and ballooning debt.

DOJ says ...

From page A1

which could implicate the governor.

"The witnesses are starting to come out ... We are confident that more civic-minded people will come out later," he said. However, Gonzalez declined to name the governor or the female board member, except to say that they were from Southern Luzon. "He is one of the governors whose name is always mentioned in the INQUIRER," he said.

Among the documents were petitions from the people and Sangguniang Panlalawigan calling for an investigation of the governor and police reports.

"At least these are leads," Gonzalez said, adding that some of the documents may "hold water" as evidence against the governor.

Gonzalez said he would invite the board member for questioning after securing the statements of Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao and the head of the the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

Willing to testify

"She claims that she is ready to testify," said Gonzalez, replying to questions on whether the board member was ready to back up her claim in a public hearing.

Gonzalez also said some governors and government officials who were earlier linked to jueteng had expressed willingness to reply to the charges in the ongoing DOJ inquiry on the illegal numbers game.

Those linked to jueteng so far included Governors Luis "Chavit" Singson (Ilocos Sur), Armand Sanchez (Batangas), Jose Yap (Tarlac), Jesus Typoco (Camarines Norte), Luis Raymund Villafuerte (Camarines Sur) and Vice Gov. Mariano Cristino Joson (Nueva Ecija).

Bataan Gov. Pablo Roman's son, Tonton, was likewise accused of turning over to the First Gentleman P500,000 in jueteng money. The accusations came from whistle-blower Giner David, alias Boy Tangad or code-named O1.

Reading from a report submitted by National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco, Gonzalez said Sanchez "is willing to cooperate and submit an affidavit;" Joson had denied involvement in jueteng, and Yap had promised to submit a statement to the NBI today.

Typoco admitted there were jueteng operations in his province, but these were done "guerrilla style."

Villafuerte has yet to make an official comment on the matter.

Small fry

Henares was asked why the BIR had so far focused its campaign against tax evaders largely on the "small fry," like movie stars while the "big fry," like more prominent political personalities implicated in the jueteng payola such as Singson and Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, had so far remained unscathed.

Henares explained that unlike jueteng lords and coddlers, "movie stars are easy to determine whether they have filed the right taxes (because) you watch them on TV."

"I guess small fry and large fry can be different for different people. For me, (movie stars) can be large fry because they are in your face. We all know that we can catch them if they are reporting their income. And they have the courage and temerity to not report it. For me, it's not in the amount, it's in the blatant disregard of the law," Henares said.

Singson's lifestyle

Henares also referred to Singson's lavish lifestyle. "You're only seeing one side of his life which is the asset. You are not seeing whether they are reporting the income. It's not just determining the asset, you have to determine the income tax return.

"Perception is not admissible in court, we need documentation. We have to get all this evidence of ownership and compare it with the income tax return filed to determine whether there is discrepancy or not," she said.

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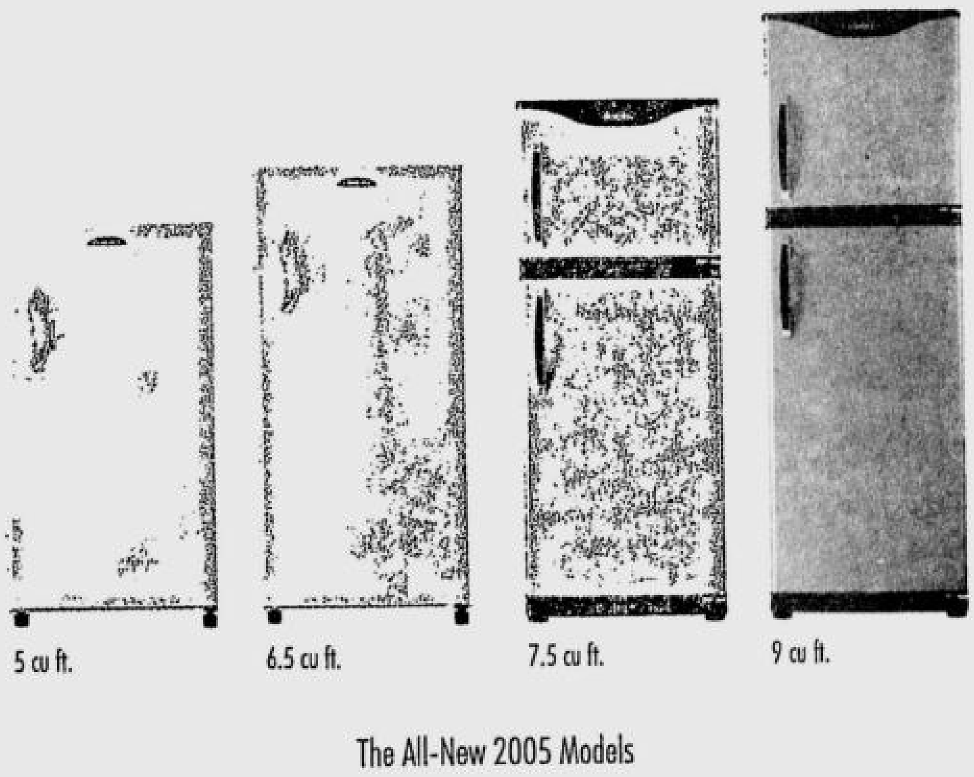

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₱1.2M in 'jueteng' bets seized in CL in 5 months

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Illegal gambling bets confiscated in various Central Luzon provinces amounted to P1.2 million in the last five months, showing how vibrant "jueteng" was before the government announced a new crackdown.

The amount was collected in seven provinces.

Police reports gathered by the INQUIRER, which formed part of a briefing paper to be submitted Tuesday to a police antijueteng task force, showed that raids in Tarlac City had netted the biggest amount, at P939,676.40.

Nueva Ecija and Pampanga represented the second and third biggest confiscations, at P100,379.50 and P72,560.50, respectively.

Police sources said the reports did not reflect the true extent of jueteng operations in Central Luzon.

"The confiscations merely depended on the number of raids launched," a police official said.

The reports said 282 antijueteng raids were carried out from Jan. 1 to May 23.

Three raids were conducted in Aurora, 18 in Bataan, 56 each in Bulacan and Nueva Ecija, 86 in Pampanga, seven in Zambales, 40 in Tarlac City, six in Angeles City and 10 in Olongapo City.

Many of the raids occurred in late April and May when allegations of involvement of people close to President Macapagal-Arroyo appeared in the media.

Fewer raids were launched during the stint of Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, former Central Luzon police chief.

Why fewer raids were conducted in some provinces and cities, such as Zambales and Angeles City, where jueteng was known to be thriving, was not explained in the reports.

But a police source offered an answer: "Either *cobradores* (collectors) had eluded arrest or the police in the area were up to solving other crimes or were on the take."

Solon scores delay in 'jueteng' inquiry

From page A1

Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, so that he could clear his name.

Unnamed whistle-blowers in the jueteng industry had claimed they were told that Arroyo and his father, First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, had received protection money from jueteng lords.

The First Gentleman left the country over the weekend while Representative Arroyo said yesterday that he was going to the United States next week.

Lost chances

Golez said the House public order and security committee was supposed to hold a hearing today but it was canceled for unknown reasons.

"For reasons that I cannot comprehend right now, the hearing (today) has been canceled. And it's a pity because the last hearing we had was May 3, that was when Cruz presented the so-called jueteng list," he said.

"Since then, we've had no activity and we're losing opportunity here," he added.

It was Golez who convinced Cruz to submit to Congress his list of suspected jueteng operators.

Chair explains

Golez said that Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao, Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno, and representatives from the Anti-Money Laundering Council and the leagues of mayors and governors, cities and municipalities were supposed to attend today's hearing.

But Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino Jr., the committee chair, said the hearing was canceled because some of the witnesses informed the committee that they would not be able to attend.

He said Lomibao and Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca had said they would not be able to make it. Espino said the hearing was rescheduled for next week.

One voice

Golez called on Malacañang to speak with one voice on the issue of jueteng, noting that while Ms Arroyo had said that she was against it, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Palace was leaving the decision up to Congress.

Golez warned that jueteng operators would still lord it over the illegal numbers racket if it were legalized.

"I'm very concerned about the statement of the presidential spokesman saying that it's up to Congress. If they are against jueteng, then they should also be against its legalization," Golez said.

"(But) we hear statements coming from at least three or four Cabinet members saying that they are in favor of legalization."

He added: "To me, these are giving us mixed signals and then here come the mayors of Pampanga who are saying that [they are] in favor of legalization."

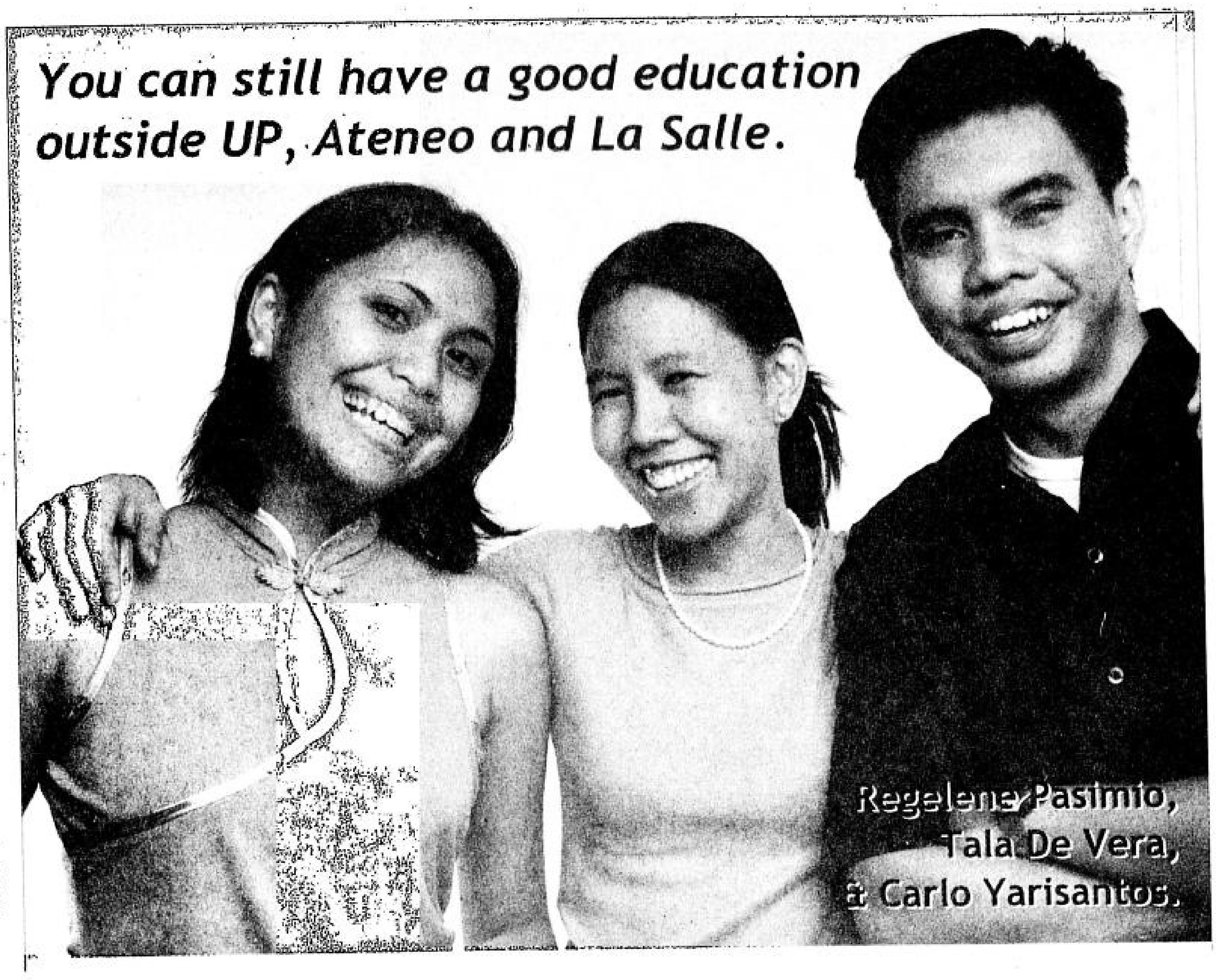
Jueteng lords

Golez said that Congress' previous study of jueteng showed that jueteng lords were in favor of its legalization because they would still run the show.

"The reason for this is that they know that they can take over a legal jueteng environment. They would still run it," he said.

"That's exactly what happened in the case of the small-town lottery, the so-called jueteng lords took over... and that's exactly what they will be doing judging from what we know about jueteng."

Golez warned: "The jueteng lords are there waiting for when jueteng is legalized. They will be there to take over and use the legal jueteng as a front for their illegal activities, so the government would still lose there."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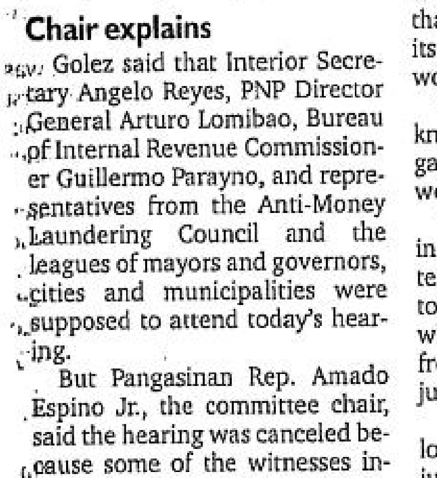

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Rehabilitation, Not Demolition

(Statement on the PPI issue and the State of the Pre-Need Industry)

WE REPRESENT the ordinary plan holders of Pacific Plans, Inc. (PPI), who stand to lose everything if the current controversy over the financial status of the company remains unresolved. Our main concern is that our investments in the education of our children should be amply protected.

The ills now besetting PPI mirror those of the other pre-need companies, and we are worried that the continuing controversy surrounding it could negatively impact on the entire industry, leading to its eventual collapse, which we and the entire nation can hardly afford at this time. *While those responsible for the problems of the industry must be punished, protecting the plan holders and saving the industry from further ruin should now be our utmost concern.*

We are convinced that the eventual rehabilitation of PPI is in the best interest of the ordinary plan holders, the company and the entire pre-need industry. PPI's offered rehabilitation plan is a good start. **BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH.**

Among others, a sustainable, equitable and responsive rehabilitation program should:

1. Insure that PPI open its books to close scrutiny and due diligence by accounting and legal experts in full view of representatives of the plan holders, industry experts and the appropriate government agencies to pave the way for an informed discussion of its rehabilitation plan.
2. Insure that government put in place the necessary measures to protect and sustain the health and viability of the entire pre-need industry. For starters, it can instruct government financial institutions and government-owned and controlled corporations such as the SSS and the GSIS to provide much-needed liquidity to the entire industry. If government can guarantee the profits and viability of independent power producers (IPPs) and rescue the cash-strapped Maynilad Water Services, we see no reason why it cannot extend the same assistance to the pre-need industry.
3. Insure that Congress review and correct the negative impact of the deregulation of school fees and other unwanted effects of the Education Act of 1992; subject our Securities Law and other related laws to the same scrutiny to plug existing loopholes, protect the public interest and sustain the viability of the pre-need industry in the long term. The setting up of a PDIC-type authority to 'insure' plan holders is a step in the right direction.

We assure all our fellows plan holders that we shall be monitoring closely the conduct of Makati RTC Judge Romeo Barza in whose sala the PPI rehabilitation plan is going to be heard beginning May 25 to ensure that he will truly be impartial and objective considering his past association with PPI's legal counsels.

In the days ahead, we will also look into reports of alleged lapses in PPI's management of its affairs particularly its handling of an SEC approved 'internal re-organization' which has now embroiled all of us in unwanted controversy. We will also see to it that those plan holders who have made a killing in the trading of PPI plans throughout the years to the detriment and extreme prejudice of the vast majority will answer for their misdeeds.

In addition, we will also ensure that the matter of equity in the availment of benefits among plan holders is thoroughly studied to ensure decent education for our children and the security of our investments.

But as responsible plan holders, we deem it best that the determination of the ills that have visited PPI and the entire the pre-need industry and the assignment of responsibilities therefore be undertaken SEPARATELY from the more critical task of assuring that PPI gets into the black to enable it to honor its obligations.

We urge all plan holders to get in touch with the Convenor Groups or legal counsels so that together, we can attain our just demands.

Rehabilitation, not demolition is the key to a sustainable pre-need industry, a decent education and a better future for our children.

THE CONVENOR GROUPS: Coordinating Alliance for Reform & Empowerment in the Pre-Need Industry (CARE–Pre-Need • Alyansang Reporma at Ugnayang Galing at Aruga sa Pre-Need Industry (ARUGA–Pre-Need) Dave Diwa (National President, National Labor Union,Tel.09273944195)• Butch Peña (Spokesman, 09182027855) • Ka Pabling Marquez (President, ALYANSA)• Angie Silvestre (Director, Kabalikat–Rizal)•Jimmy Abana (President, UFSW)• Lito de Luna (Chairman, Kabalikat, 09196011349)•Pete Cabungcal (Vice President, AGLO)• Boyie Baez (President, Kapakanan)•Ariel Severino (Convenor, BUKAS–Novo Ecijano)•Jess Manalansan (Convenor, Society of CPAs & Entrepreneurs)• Amado Magbanua (Secretary-General, NFL-Mindanao)• Atty. Fe M. Martinez (Auditor)

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ADVT.

Controversial VAT bill finally a law

From page A1

the sales tax next year to 12 percent from 10 percent.

The same measure increases the corporate income tax to 35 percent from 32 percent despite concerns by businessmen that it would hurt the private sector while failing to raise the revenues the government desperately needs.

"The signing of the amended (VAT) bill caps the first phase of the Arroyo administration's economic reform agenda," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said after the signing ceremony. "It is a milestone piece of legislation that will significantly broaden our tax base this year and the next."

Only photographers and TV crews were allowed into the hall when Ms Arroyo signed the controversial measure. Reporters were barred from covering the event.

At his regular press briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said there was no full media coverage of the bill's signing because a meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) immediately followed the ceremony.

"The important thing is there was a signing, the important personages supposed to be there were there and the President actually signed, and there was photo coverage of the event," Bunye said.

According to a press statement, Ms Arroyo thanked the legislators for passing the measure, which was part of a tax reform package she sent to Congress last year amid warnings of a possible debt default.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia and other lawmakers witnessed the signing. But Sen. Ralph Recto and Rep. Jesli Lapus, chairs of the respective Senate and House committees that tackled the VAT bill, were conspicuously absent.

Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser on political affairs, said Recto had begged off from the ceremony due "to some urgent engagements." Lapus has been abroad since Congress ratified the VAT measure nearly two weeks ago, according to Claudio.

Impact

Internal Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the Ledac meeting discussed the impact of the new VAT law and that officials were optimistic the measure would bring in P28.75 billion in additional revenues this year and P104.2 billion next year.

Henares said revenue projections presented by Purisima during the Ledac meeting showed that the impact of the VAT law would be fully felt upon the complete implementation of the measure by 2006.

The finance department has said that 70 percent of the proceeds from the new tax measure will be used to address the deficit while 30 percent will go to budgetary support.

The yawning budget deficit and legislators' failure to swiftly pass tax reforms earlier this year led to successive downgrades of the country's sovereign credit ratings.

The government incurred a budget deficit of P63.5 billion in the first three months of the year, well within the target of P77.8 billion for the period. The government is aiming to limit the deficit to P177-180 billion for the whole year following a deficit of P187 billion in 2004.

But Henares said international agencies were expected to upgrade soon the country's credit ratings that would bring down the cost of government borrowings.

Cora Guidote, presidential consultant for investor relations, said Standard & Poors was expected to make its annual visit to the country next week. According to Guidote, an S&P analyst had been quoted in the media as saying that the rating firm was "quite encouraged by what's going on in the fiscal front."

Higher prices

Even so, the opposition and consumer groups charged that the measure could trigger higher prices for basic commodities.

On Tuesday, a group of protesters burned pictures of Ms Arroyo and hoisted banners denouncing the new tax law as a burden on the poor.

While the law retained the 10-percent VAT this year, Ms Arroyo earlier said she would not balk at exercising her authority to raise the sales tax to 12 percent next year.

Astro del Castillo, managing director of First Grade Holdings, said the law was a "possible disincentive to certain foreign investors" who would balk at the country's 35-percent corporate income tax, one of the highest in the region.

"The new measure has left a sour taste in the mouths of certain industries," Del Castillo said. "I think we are in chorus that this will really somehow have an impact on prices of basic goods and services. This is unavoidable already."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who voted against the bill, said the opposition would challenge the law in the Supreme Court.

Pimentel, however, gave no specific timeframe for the challenge, noting that the law would only take effect after it had been published in the next two weeks.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said Ms Arroyo rammed through the passage of the measure and that the opposition in both chambers of Congress had objected to some of the bill's provisions.

"She should attach her name to it. Since she had pressured Congress to pass it, then let it be known henceforth as the Arroyo Law," Escudero said, adding that this would remind the people that it was the President herself who had gifted them with an additional burden.

According to economists, legislators had left the political onus of actually raising the VAT to Ms Arroyo while allowing them to avoid the flak from actually having raised the tax themselves.

Market reaction

Following the signing of the VAT bill, the peso closed higher at 54.565 to the US dollar, up from 54.710 on Monday.

But the 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed down 2.40 points, or 0.1 percent, at 1,881.08, after shedding 0.2 percent on Monday.

"The market was so lethargic. The expanded VAT law has been signed and that's discounted already, so there's no incentive for the market to go up," said PCCI Securities president Francisco Liboro.

Another factor keeping investors from buying into the market were allegations swirling in the media in past weeks that Ms Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel, and their son, Rep. Juan Miguel, had benefited from "jueteng" operations. Both have denied the allegations.

"Many people are waiting to see what will happen here, how the public is going to view it," said Liboro, noting that the last jueteng scandal to hit the government eventually led to the ouster of President Joseph Estrada in 2001. *With report by Michael Lim Ubac, AFP and AP*

Hard times descend . . .

From page A1

large employment base in the last 10 years here.

"They can't hold on for long," said Barangay Chair Robert Yeen, referring to the more than 100 residents who work as collectors in the village of 12,000 people. They earned 15 percent from every peso wagered.

DSWD assistance

Even Yeen said he didn't know how far the barangay council could go in helping the displaced. The council has sought the help of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Showing receipts and coupons, Yeen said the P4,000 that the DSWD gave was used to buy rice. Help, however, reached only 50 unemployed cobradores who each received 5 kg of rice good only for two days.

From the council's own funds, Yeen said he and other leaders approved a resolution appropriating money for the tuition of children of cobradores next month. Putting to school 128 elementary students and 146 high school students, whose enrolment fees amount to P380 and P530 each, respectively, would cost the council at least P125,020.

"The social and economic impact is great," Yeen said. "We have no more help to give others than those for now."

In Manila, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas yesterday said she would meet with Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes to look into ways of helping people expected to be dislocated by the government drive against the illegal numbers game.

"We will discuss livelihood options, alternative employment and job skills training as well as other safety nets because there might be displacement," Sto. Tomas told reporters in an interview.

"We will pool our resources to this effort once we reach an understanding on what to do," the labor secretary added.

Studies showed that jueteng is run much like a corporation, employing large cadres of collectors, checkers, watchers, supervisors, hit men and lawyers. Operators and capitalists operate safe houses and drop-off points. Estimates of the daily take in Luzon alone range to as high as P50 million a day.

Police worry

At the regional police headquarters in Camp Olivas, policemen began to express worry over the diminishing budget from jueteng protection money.

"Up to when should we endure this?" a police officer asked the INQUIRER on Tuesday.

The policeman said that on top of their basic pay of P10,000, an additional P1,500 came every 15th and 30th from jueteng money.

In Salapungan, while many have been trying to eke out a living buying scrap bottles, washing clothes and taking on construction work, others have resorted to petty crimes to survive, Yeen said.

"Many are turning desperate," he said.

The wife of Licup, a collector, blamed the government for her husband's death.

She said his jueteng operator had not paid for her husband's funeral services. She said the operator had also abandoned collectors who had been put in jail, unable to pay the P20,000 bail.

"Poor people like us depend on jueteng for a living," she said. Practically every need—food, clothing, electricity, water and the education of their seven children—was derived from the P1,000 the Licup couple earned daily from jueteng. She said she and her husband had been on the job for the last 10 years.

Way out of poverty

Dizon, a single parent at 49, said she was not ashamed of her job.

"In eight years, this was all I had. And I toiled hard. I sent my son to college this way," she said as she took a break from sewing school uniforms, her alternative source of income for now. "Why call jueteng illegal when many poor people are employed by it? Probably because we're not paying taxes? The peddling of illegal drugs deserves to be called illegal but not jueteng," she said.

"This is our only way out of poverty. Why make us suffer?" Dizon said.

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Solid Track Record in Education Insurance

Philamlife launched its first education insurance product, called "Philamlife Scholar" in December 1985. Since then, it has continuously enhanced its products to meet the changing needs of the market. Scholar Plus was launched in 1990 and featured a short 5-year paying period. Scholar Gold followed in 1993 with improved features and benefits. International Scholar, the company's first dollar-denominated education product, was launched in 2001.

Over P1B in Benefits Paid

Philamlife, the country's No. 1 life insurance company, earlier disclosed that total payments to Philamlife scholars from 2000-2005 will reach P1.019 Billion when this year's first batch of education benefits is released to policyholders this May. A total of P165 Million in Philamlife education benefits is currently being released through its network of 100 branch offices nationwide.

Timely Release of Benefits

Philamlife education benefits are intended for the tuition and other enrollment expenses of the scholars covered by Philamlife's various education insurance products, mainly Scholar Gold Prime and Advantage and other Scholar Gold products. The timely release of these benefits will allow parents to enroll their children for school year 2005-06.

Excellent Management of Funds

Philamlife only sells "fixed-value" education products. These products peg the promised payment to a specific pre-computed amount, and are thus more viable and easily managed. With fixed-value plans, a company knows exactly how much its obligations will be at a certain point in time, and can thus manage its trust funds more effectively.

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Activist vs Marcos, Erap loses fight vs cancer

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HE BRAVELY fought for justice and earned small victories in his crusades.

But yesterday morning, activist Romy Abaya lost his fight against lung cancer. He was 60.

"He was a very dedicated Filipino. He fought a good fight," his wife Fanny told the INQUIRER yesterday afternoon. He was also survived by their only child, Claudia Sophia, 23.

Abaya became a victim of illegal arrest and unlawful detention during the martial law, his friend Ruth Cervantes said.

Erap resign, too

In 2000, he also joined calls for the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada by organizing the Erap Resign Movement chapter in San Juan, the municipality which has been described as an Erap country.

His group was among the first organizations to arrive at the Edsa Shrine for the People Power II which finally ousted Estrada.

He also joined PlunderWatch, a group formed to monitor the plunder trial against the ousted President.

No closure

"It is very sad because he died even before the plunder trial against Estrada was concluded. He died while other martial law victims are still seeking justice," Cervantes said.

Abaya had been confined at the Victor Potenciano Medical Center in Mandaluyong City in the last few days.

He died at 6:45 p.m. yesterday.

His remains will be at the Mt. Carmel Church. They will be cremated on Saturday.

Salonga laments rising number of lawyers killed

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER Senate President Jovito Salonga yesterday spoke out against the killing of lawyers which appears to be intensifying under the Arroyo administration.

In a message read for him by lawyer Emilio Capulong at a public forum on violence against lawyers, Salonga said: "What are we to say in the face of this seemingly calculated mayhem against the cause-oriented?"

"It will be to our grievous peril as a just and democratic society if we choose to miss the dire significance of this. For it is upon these three basic institutions – that of a free press, a militant church and an uncompromising due process – on which the life and strength of our nation must rest," he said.

Salonga could not make it to the forum – organized by the UP College of Law and the Committee for the Defense of Lawyers – because he attended a memorial service for Rev. Edison Lapuz of the National Council of Churches of the Philippines, who was killed earlier this month.

Signature campaign

The forum was to launch a signature campaign against the spate of violence being perpetrated against lawyers, four of whom have been killed since January in the course of doing their jobs. The violence was the subject of a recent commentary by the Netherlands-based International Alliance of People's Lawyers.

In 2004, seven lawyers and judges were killed, bringing the number of lawyers slain up to the present to 11. In contrast, since 2004, 18 journalists have been killed in the course of their work.

Salonga called the killing of Lapuz state-sponsored violence.

"My physical presence has not been possible because right this morning I am scheduled to address an ecumenical group that is holding a memorial service to honor a church leader who had also fallen victim to state-sponsored violence," Salonga said.

"About a month prior to (Lapuz's) assassination, in the very same locality (in) Tacloban City, it was Attorney Felidito Dacut, a highly committed lawyer, who was ruthlessly gunned down," Salonga said.

The 51-year-old Dacut, who used to be with the Commission on Human Rights and was a human rights lawyer during martial law, was killed on his way home after buying milk for his two-year-old daughter.

Emotional appeal

His widow, Amelia, turned emotional yesterday as she issued an appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo to do something about the killings, particularly in eastern Visayas.

"I ask Ms Arroyo to please stop the killings in the Visayas," Amelia said between sobs.

"You're also a mother. You also get hurt when something happens to your children," she said.

Dacut, regional coordinator of the militant group Bayan Muna in Eastern Samar, was slain by two suspects on a motorcycle on March 14.

The human rights group Karapatan and Dacut's colleagues in Bayan Muna believe the military was behind the killing following Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan's declaration that he would rid the eastern Visayas of antigovernment demonstrations when he assumed the top Army post in the region.

"President Arroyo should be held directly responsible... many of these killings are the handiwork of the military," said Capulong at the forum.

"There is no serious effort to go after these killers and that is to be deplored," he said.

Gunmen hold bus passengers hostage

OZAMIZ CITY—A passenger bus was hijacked by two armed men in Sapang Dalaga town in Misamis Occidental yesterday morning.

As of press time last night, at least 15 passengers were still being held hostage by the gunmen, who had boarded the bus in Plaridel town. The bus had come from Cagayan de Oro City and was bound for Zamboanga City.

At around 11 a.m., the bus stopped at a military checkpoint in Sapang Dalaga, where the male passengers were asked to get off for frisking. The armed men, who were the only male passengers, refused to go down and announced a hijack. They threatened to blow up the bus with a grenade. *Ryan D. Rosauro*

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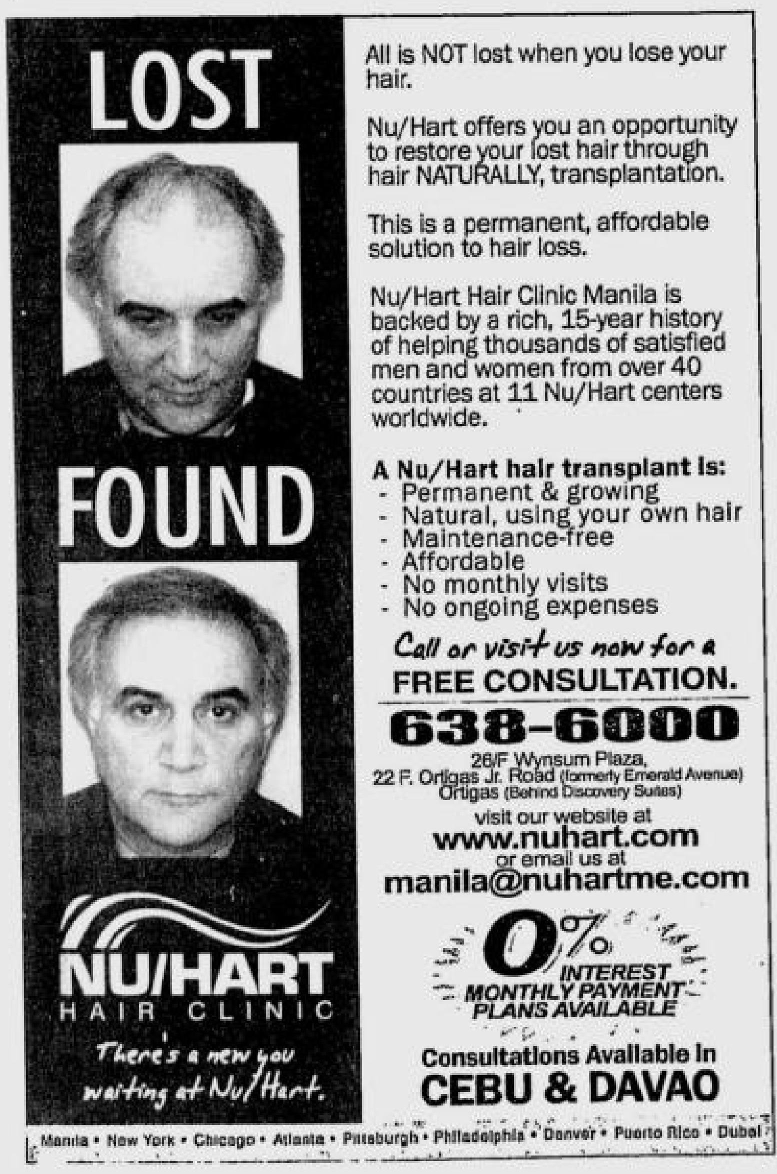

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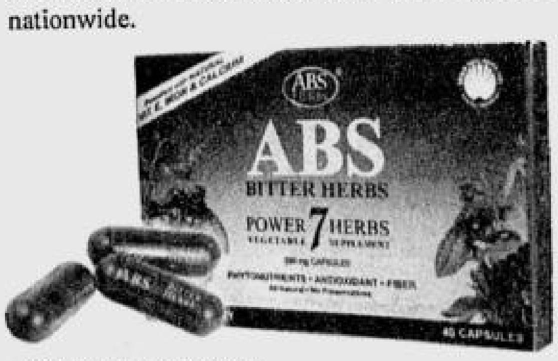

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IN THE MATTER OF THE
CANYON WOODS GRANDE INTERNATIONAL
VACATION CLUB, INC.
(Registrant)

Registration of Securities

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on March 31, 2005, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of CANYON WOODS GRANDE INTERNATIONAL VACATION CLUB, INC. for the registration of its One Thousand Five Hundred Sixty (1,560) Membership Certificates, divided into Nine Hundred Thirty Six (936) Full Share Ownership Certificates and Six Hundred Twenty Four (624) Half Share Ownership Certificates at a price range of Three Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (P325,000.00) to Seven Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Pesos (P775,000.00) each.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation:

NAME	POSITION
George S. Go	President and CEO
Terry L. Go	Director/Treasurer
Evelyn Go	Director/Financial Officer
Benjamin Y. Sison	Director/Comptroller
Antonio C. Villareal	Director/Principal Operating Officer

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business, hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI - May 25 & 27, 2005)

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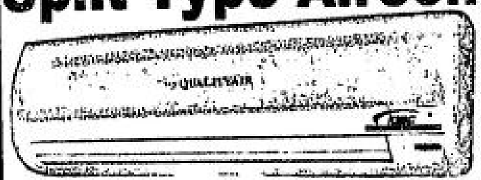

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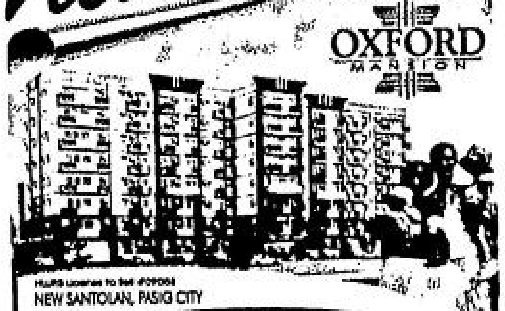

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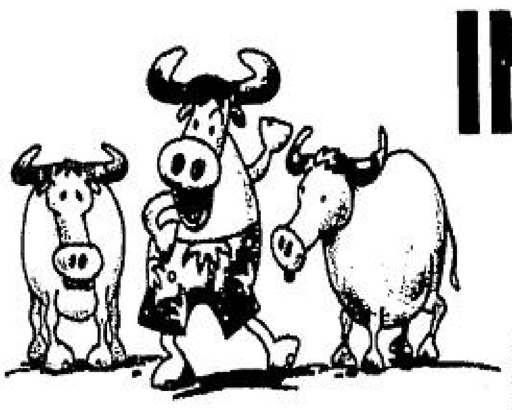

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HPI Philippines Announces Reorganization

The humanitarian development organization, Heifer Project International (HPI) – Philippines, announced today that it would streamline its operations and reorganize its manpower complement. The reorganization is pursuant to the objectives embodied in HPI Philippines' Strategic Plan to: (a) build a small, united and efficient organization and (b) seek the active participation of partner organizations and agencies in implementing HPI Philippines' projects.

Nevertheless, HPI Country Director Eduardo Sabio affirmed HPI Philippines' commitment to pursue its mission of alleviating poverty and hunger. Dr. Sabio explained that the reorganization is meant to strengthen the fundamentals of HPI Philippines and ensure its continued viability. He added that a streamlined HPI Philippines would work more closely with communities and families in need.

Since 1954, HPI Philippines has provided farm animals and training to poor families throughout the Philippines. At the heart of HPI Philippines' philosophy is the commitment that beneficiaries "pass on the gift" by sharing one or more of their farm animal's offspring and acquired knowledge with other families in need. HPI Philippines believes that allowing poor families to help one another ensures dignity and multiplies the benefits of the original gift from generation to generation.

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DLI Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	45.10	144.00	98.90/bot
DLI Ampicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	6.50	14.15	7.65/cap
DLI Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓	3.20	37.75	34.55/cap
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Car bombs, suicide attacks kill 49 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A string of car bombs and suicide attacks across Iraq killed at least 49 Iraqis and wounded more than 130, striking a Baghdad restaurant popular with police, a Shiite mosque and the home of a community leader near Mosul.

Insurgents on Monday also assassinated a senior Iraqi general in the capital, and the US military reported that four American soldiers were killed in combat Sunday in northern Iraq and a fifth died in an accident.

About 610 people, including 49 US troops, have been killed since April 28, when Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari announced his new government. Washington hopes the government will eventually train police and an army capable of securing Iraq and allowing the withdrawal of foreign troops.

In Monday's deadliest attack, two car bombs exploded in the town of Tal Afar, 80 km west of the northern city of Mosul, killing at least 20 people and injuring 20 more, officials said. The blasts apparently targeted the home of Hassan Baktash, a Shiite Muslim with close ties to the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

A suicide car bomber carried out the second worst strike when he blew himself up outside a Shiite mosque shortly before evening prayers in Mahmoudiya, a town 30 km south of Baghdad. Police said it killed at least 10 people and wounded 30—many of them children.

Sunni Muslims opposed to Iraq's Shiite-dominated government are thought to provide the backbone of the insurgency, and some Sunni extremists are attacking Shiite targets in an effort to provoke a sectarian war.

In Baghdad's worst attack in recent days, a car bomb killed at least eight people and wounded more than 80 when it exploded at lunchtime outside the Habayibna restaurant in the Talibia neighborhood. It is a popular gathering spot for police.

"All these people were killed for no reason. What wrong did they do by being policemen or soldiers?" a shaken Mshari Hassan, the restaurant owner, said shortly after the blast.

Baghdad hospitals where the dead were taken did not say if any were police officers or soldiers.

"We were eating at the restaurant then I don't remember anything until I woke up here in the hospital. There were hundreds of people in the restaurant having lunch," said Dia Hamid, who was being treated at al-Kindi Hospital for head and stomach injuries.

A suicide bomber killed five Iraqis and injured 13 when he drove an explosives-packed pickup truck into a crowd outside a municipal council office in Tuz Khormato, 90 km south of the northern city of Kirkuk, a police commander, Lt. Gen. Sarhat Qader, said.

Monday's violence began in Baghdad when Maj. Gen. Wael al-Rubaei, a senior official in the national security ministry, was killed along with his driver in a fusillade of automatic weapons fire from two cars packed with insurgents. Al-Qaida in Iraq, the group run by Jordanian terrorist mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility.

The assassination came a day after another senior government official, trade ministry auditing office chief Ali Moussa, was shot dead. Insurgents have killed 18 officials since late April, nearly all in drive-by shootings.

In other violence Monday, two Iraqis were killed and two injured in Kirkuk when a mortar round hit a house, police Capt. Farhad Talabani said.

In Samarra, a former insurgent stronghold 100 km north of Baghdad, three suicide bombers trying to attack an American base wounded three soldiers, the US military said. Two Iraqi men were killed and 20 people, including men and women, were wounded, police Lt. Qassim Mohammed said.

The US military announced that three American soldiers were killed Sunday and one wounded in two separate attacks in Mosul, 360 km northwest of Baghdad. *AP*

UN verifies Syrian troop withdrawal

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Monday that the world body has verified that Syria has "fully" withdrawn its troops from neighboring Lebanon.

Annan told reporters that the UN mission to the region had issued a report verifying the complete withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon and that he had passed that finding on to the UN Security Council.

"Today it's the Syrian troops which have been withdrawn and so, in principle, Lebanon should be free of all foreign forces," Annan said.

"I have given the report of the verification mission to the president of the SC (Security Council), the verification mission that went into Lebanon to verify that the Syrian troops and security forces have fully withdrawn," Annan said.

Syria withdrew its forces in the wake of UN Resolution 1559, steered through the council in September by France and the United States, which demanded a full withdrawal of Damascus' forces from Lebanon.

Damascus said it completed the withdrawal on April 26, but Annan had been waiting for the UN team to verify the pullout.

Syria's decision came after the Feb. 14 shock murder of popular former Lebanese prime minister Rafiq Hariri, blamed by many on the then Lebanese regime and its political masters in Damascus.

Hariri's assassination, which sparked widespread protests that brought down the government in Lebanon in late February, also prompted the United Nations to launch an international commission to probe the killing.

Syria first deployed troops in Lebanon as a buffer force during the early stages of the 1975-1990 civil war, turning into the dominant factor on the Lebanese political and military scenes. *AFP*

GAS PROTEST

Bolivian protesters demanding the naturalization of gas resources are seen through a burning tire at a road block in the city of El Alto, 15 km south of La Paz, Bolivia May 23. REUTERS

Bush, Karzai sign pact for long-term US military presence in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush and Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai signed a "strategic partnership" Monday enabling long-term US involvement in Afghanistan's security as well as reconstruction.

Among the key points of the agreement was allowing US military forces operating in Afghanistan to have continued access to the key Bagram Air Base as well as other military facilities as "may be mutually determined."

American access to these facilities was necessary for US forces to "help organize, train, equip, and sustain Afghan security forces" according to the joint declaration of the "US-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership."

"It's a partnership we have been working on for quite a while," Bush told reporters with Karzai by his side after their meeting at the White House.

"It's a partnership that establishes regular, high-level exchange on political, security and economic issues of mutual interest," Bush said.

Since helping to bring down the Taliban in 2001, Washington has remained Karzai's biggest supporter, both in terms of reconstruction aid and its military presence, with 18,000 troops on the ground fighting remnants of the Taliban and their allies.

Karzai has been a key advocate for a permanent security relationship with the United States but had stopped short of calling for full-time American bases, a sensitive topic in the war-shattered country.

In an apparent bid to assuage any concerns, Bush said Monday that under the new pact, the United States would "consult with Afghanistan if it perceives its territorial integrity, independence or security is at risk."

"Of course our troops will respond to US commanders, but our US commanders and our diplomatic mission there is in a consultative relationship with the government," he added.

Most of the US troops in Afghanistan are either based at Bagram airbase north of Kabul or at Kandahar airbase, which the United States uses to launch raids against insurgents still active in the south and east of the country. *AFP*

China upset by Japanese shrine comments

BEIJING—China expressed extreme dissatisfaction on Tuesday with remarks by Japanese leaders on visiting a controversial war shrine, state media said, a day after a top Chinese official cut short a trip to Japan in protest.

Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi canceled a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Monday and left a day early, prompting a diplomatic stir over a trip some had hoped would help repair ties which have deteriorated to their worst state in decades.

China, where bitter memories of Japan's wartime invasion persist, has repeatedly criticized the visits to the Yasukuni shrine, where convicted war criminals are honored along with Japan's 2.5 million war dead.

Koizumi says the visits are to honor war dead and pray for peace.

"To our regret, during Vice Premier Wu Yi's stay in Japan, Japanese leaders repeatedly made remarks on visiting the Yasukuni shrine that go against the efforts to improve Sino-Japanese relations," the official Xinhua news agency quoted Foreign Ministry spokesperson Kong Quan as saying.

"China is extremely unsatisfied with it."

Koizumi last visited the shrine in January 2004 and said last week he would make an "appropriate decision" on when to go again.

Kong said the Chinese government attached great importance to Sino-Japanese relations and had made unremitting efforts to develop bilateral relations. "Vice Premier Wu Yi's visit to Japan is the best demonstration of it," he said.

China had earlier cited domestic commitments as the reason for calling off the meeting by Wu, Beijing's top-ranking woman and the most senior Chinese official to visit Japan since 2003.

But the cancelation—a diplomatic rarity—and the fact that Wu was going ahead with a visit to Mongolia on Tuesday clearly angered Japanese officials.

One called on Beijing for a "clear explanation" of what could be taken as a diplomatic snub.

Anti-Japanese protests swept Chinese cities last month with demonstrators pelting Japanese missions and the ambassador's residence in Beijing with rocks and eggs and vandalizing Japanese restaurants.

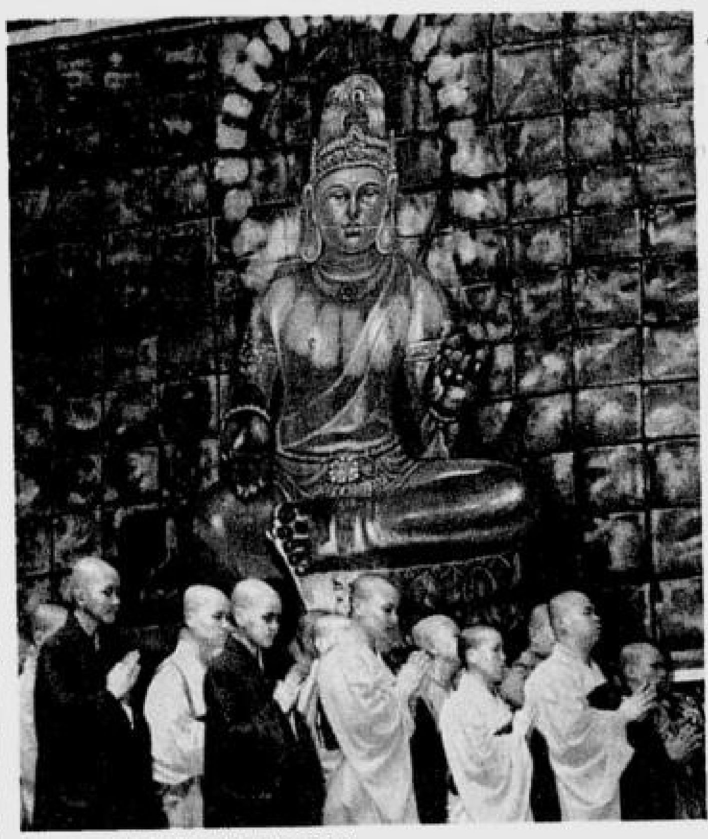
The protests were triggered by Tokyo's approval of a school textbook that critics say whitewashes its 1931-45 invasion and partial occupation of China and by its bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

Chinese President Hu Jintao and Koizumi met in Jakarta on the sidelines of the Asia-Africa summit in April, pulling relations between the Asian giants back from the brink. But analysts said memories of Japan's wartime history and rivalry for influence will keep ties fragile.

Koizumi said on Monday he did not know why Wu had to leave early and that it would have been a good opportunity to repair ties since the meeting was proposed by China.

"I would meet them any time if they want to meet," Koizumi told reporters. "If they don't want to meet, there is no need to."

Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Akira Chiba said on Monday the cancelation did not appear related to Koizumi's visits to the Yasukuni shrine. *Reuters*



THE ENLIGHTENED ONE

Buddhist monks pray during a ceremony in Jakarta May 24. Thousands of Indonesian Buddhists celebrated the enlightenment of Sidharta Gautama Buddha. AFP

Britain's BBC workers threaten more strikes next week

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STRIKING employees of the BBC wave placards outside BBC Television Center in White City, London May 23. AFP

LONDON—A 48-hour walkout at the BBC next week loomed large Tuesday as unions hailed a first strike over plans to cut nearly 4,000 jobs at the world's largest public broadcaster as a huge success.

Up to 15,000 staff boycotted work for 24 hours on Monday, halting live news shows and disrupting other services, in the first strike at the British Broadcasting Corp. in seven years.

Officials from three unions behind the protest, which ended at midnight Monday, described it as the most successful in the corporation's history, The Guardian newspaper reported.

They said between 13,000 and 15,000 staff around the country stayed at home to vent their anger at an aggressive restructuring plan by the BBC's director general Mark Thompson.

The BBC, however, had different figures, saying that 10,500 out of a total of 17,000 people expected to work had turned up, according to The Guardian.

Whatever the true number, further strike action was planned for next Tuesday unless Thompson agreed to "meaningful negotiations," union leaders warned.

"They'll get a big shock next week. People are determined to get something out of this," Luke Crawley, national officer of the broadcasting union Bectu, told The Guardian.

Despite the threat, the BBC boss appeared determined to stick to his plan announced in March to cut 3,780 jobs from a 27,000-strong global work force to make savings of 355 million pounds ($663 million).

"I clearly regret the fact that some programs and services will be disrupted today... I believe it is a price worth paying to secure a strong BBC in the future," he was quoted as saying by The Guardian.

As a result of Monday's strike, almost every BBC service was affected with those that rely on live programs hit the hardest. *AFP*

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Time running out for global nuclear arms deal

UNITED NATIONS—More than 180 nations struggled on Monday to agree on how to plug loopholes in the benchmark nuclear disarmament treaty as a global conference entered its final week.

The month-long United Nations-sponsored conference, which was intended to take stock of the 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty ends on Friday. It has been deadlocked since it began on May 2, diplomats said.

The conference bogged down in wrangling for its first two and a half weeks over the agenda and then the allocation of work among treaty committees. While the disputes played out behind the scenes, nuclear activists and diplomats blamed the delays squarely on Iran and the United States.

"All it takes is two countries to disagree— and there's plenty of grounds for Iran and the United States to disagree— and the whole conference gets bottled up, stymied," Aaron Tovish, international campaign manager for the disarmament lobby group Mayors for Peace, told reporters.

"Basically, they have gutted the review effort," he said.

The United States spent the first two weeks of the conference quietly seeking to block discussions of nuclear disarmament-related commitments and decisions reached at 1995 and 2000 NPT review conferences.

Iran sought to block discussion of its nuclear enrichment program, which it insists is intended to produce fuel for nuclear power plants while the United States, Britain, France and Germany fear it may be intended for bombs.

"We regret that our work started so late but now that it's started we are making good progress," Abdul Minty, chairperson of the South African Council for the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and head of the South African delegation, said.

Minty said South Africa, which abandoned its nuclear weapons program in the early 1990s, hoped the 188 members of the NPT would issue a strong statement on all relevant issues, including disarmament and creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

Egypt has been pushing for a thorough discussion of this issue—which focuses on Israel, which is assumed to have some 200 nuclear arms—but Washington and others oppose this.

Diplomats said non-weapons states are frustrated by the fact that the five declared nuclear weapon states—the United States, Russia, France, Britain and China—have taken too few steps to assure the rest of the world they are serious about disarmament. *Reuters*

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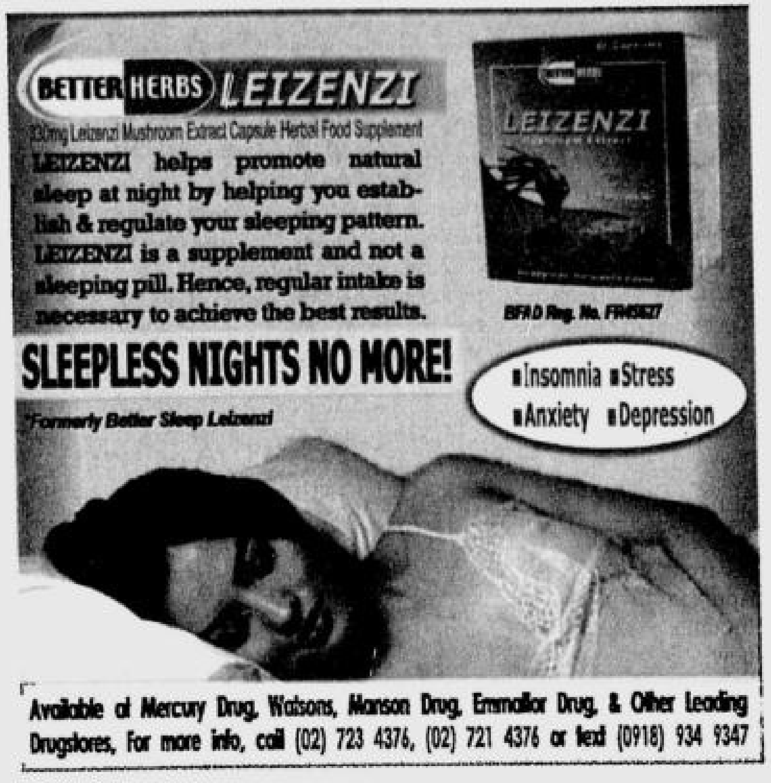
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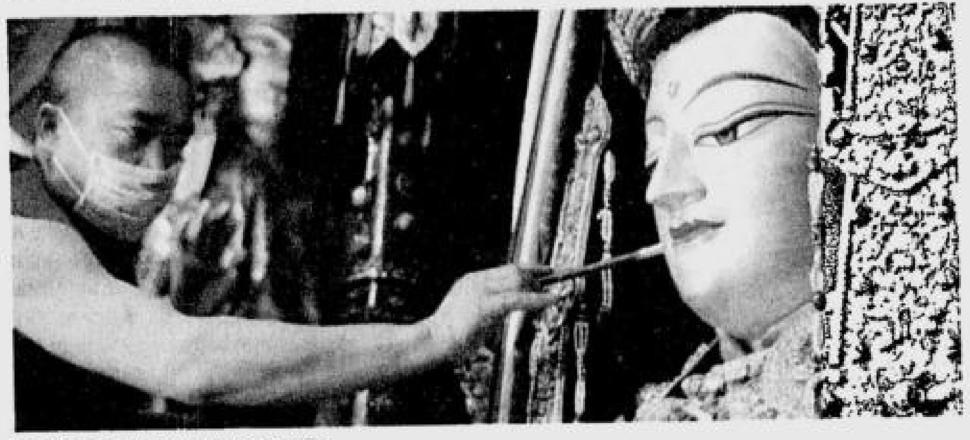
BUDDHA MAKEOVER
A Lama paints a Buddha statue with gold powder in Jokhang Temple in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region on Monday, May 23, also April 15 of the Tibetan calendar, on which believers of the Tibetan Buddhism commemorate Sakyamuni's birth, enlightenment and death. AP

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US impatient on North Korea nuclear talks

BRUSSELS—The United States is committed to resuming six-way talks on ending North Korea's nuclear arms development but would pursue other avenues if efforts failed, its top envoy to the talks said on Monday.

Christopher Hill, US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said it would be a year next month since North Korea had "boycotted" the talks and that Pyongyang showed little sign of wanting to come back to the table.

"At some point we are going to have to sit down and work out what the way forward is," he told a conference in Brussels, where he will brief European Union officials on the issue.

"At present we have a situation where North Korea does not seem to be interested. We have a number of options. One option we do not have is to walk away."

He said talks comprising the two Koreas, China, the United States, Japan and Russia were Washington's preferred forum but did not rule out other forms of dialogue as long as interested countries such as South Korea had a say.

"We want the six-party process to work. It's the right format," he said.

"We are prepared to meet with the North Koreans in a number of formats but it must be understood by all—especially the North Koreans—that nuclear weapons are not a US problem. They are everyone's problem," he added. *Reuters*

New drug delays male ejaculation

WASHINGTON—The first drug formulated to treat premature ejaculation delays climax and also increases reported satisfaction, researchers said on Monday.

The drug, called dapoxetine, helped men delay their orgasms significantly and doubled the numbers of men and their female partners reporting "good" sexual satisfaction, they told a conference.

"Premature ejaculation is a really common problem, affecting between 10 and 30 percent of all men. Here is something for the first time that we have that works," said Dr. Jon Pryor, chair of the Department of Urologic Surgery at the University of Minnesota, who led the study.

He said the drug worked quickly and with few side-effects.

"It gets in rapidly. It gets out rapidly. You can take it one to three hours before intercourse," Pryor said in a telephone interview.

The drug is being co-developed by Mountain View, California-based Alza Corp. and Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Services LLC. Ortho Pharmaceutical will market the drug in the United States if it receives US Food and Drug Administration approval. All three companies are units of Johnson & Johnson.

In a study presented to a meeting of the American Urological Association in San Antonio, Pryor said men who took dapoxetine at doses of either 30 mg or 60 mg had a three to four-fold increase in ejaculation time compared to men given a placebo. *Reuters*

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OPINION

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News sources

EDITORIAL

VIOLENT protests have erupted around the world over allegations contained in a Newsweek story that the Koran was defiled by American interrogators in Guantanamo Bay. Lives were lost. And in the end, the newsmagazine issued a complete retraction of the story, since its sources subsequently denied having confirmed such incidents.

Media practitioners, on the whole, have been kind to the Newsweek reporter, Michael Isikoff (who first reported the Monica Lewinsky story, although his magazine controversially held the story), but a tremendous amount of media soul-searching has taken place.

The whole issue for American journalists and media watchers revolves around the journalistic necessity of relying on unnamed, or anonymous, sources for information. In general, reporters aren't supposed to publish information merely on the say-so of one source, no matter how well placed. On the other hand, if information from a source can be verified by one (though preferably, two) or more sources, then the information can be published, even if attributed to a source speaking on condition of anonymity.

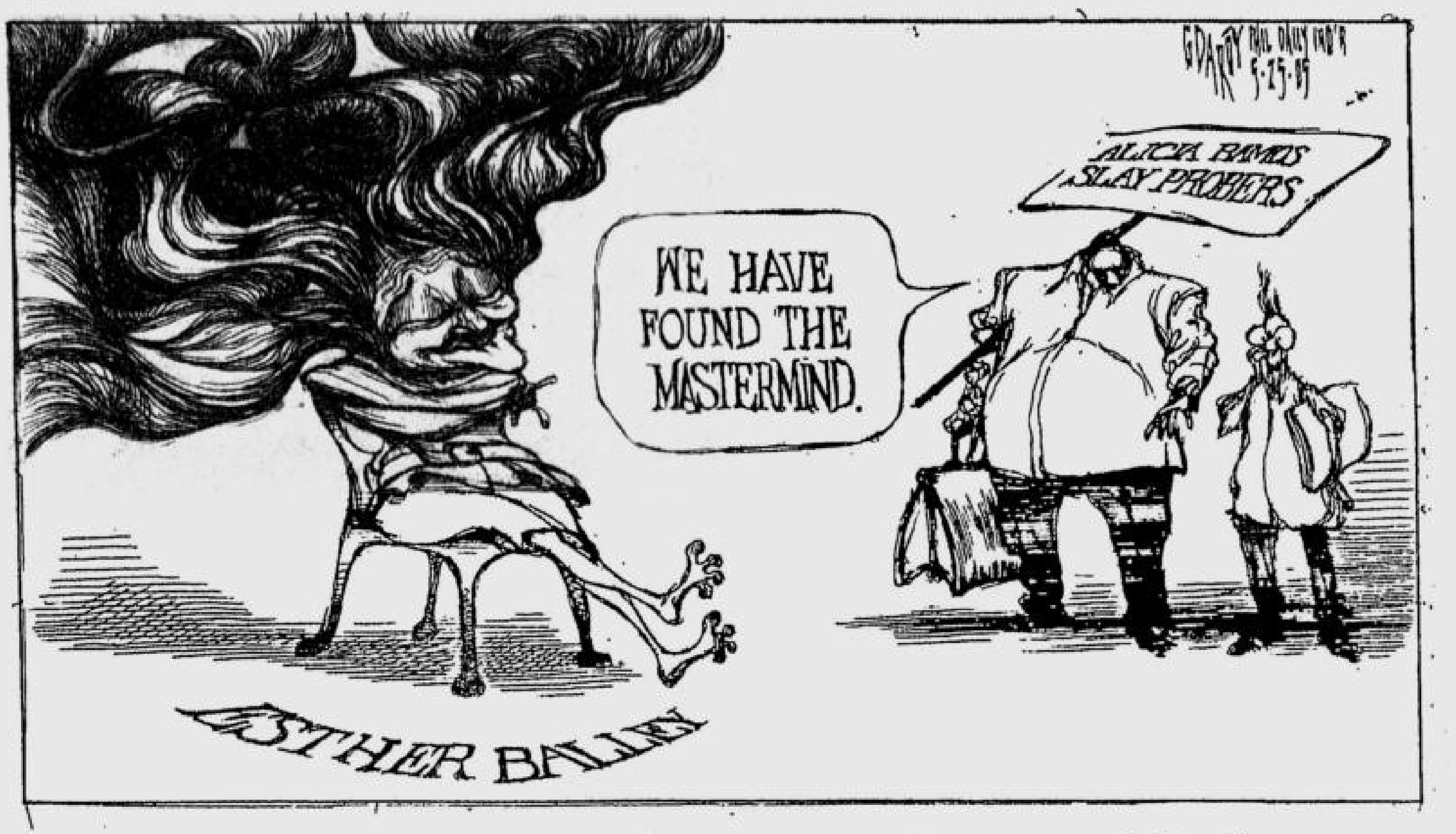
Newsweek, in reaction to the damage done to its credibility, has come forward with a far-reaching reevaluation of its journalistic practices. Richard M. Smith, publisher and editor in chief of the news weekly, in a recent open letter, says the reforms they're instituting will require three things:

First, to "raise the standards for the use of anonymous sources throughout the magazine." While "unnamed sources have helped to break or advance stories of great national importance," Smith says "overuse can lead to distrust among readers and carelessness among journalists," which requires, then, for journalists to realize that "the burden of proof should lie with the reporters and their editors to show why a promise of anonymity serves the reader." The magazine will therefore require that only the editor or the managing editor will have the authority to approve the use of an anonymous source.

The magazine will also do away with absolute secrecy when it comes to sources: "As they often are now, the name and position of such a source will be shared upon request with a designated top editor. Our goal is to ensure that we have properly assessed, on a confidential basis, the source's credibility and motives before publishing and to make sure that we characterize the source appropriately." The magazine promises never to use what it calls "the cryptic phrase 'sources said'" as the sole attribution for a story.

Finally, there's the pledge that "When information provided by a source wishing to remain anonymous is essential to a sensitive story—alleging misconduct or reflecting a highly contentious point of view, for example—we pledge a renewed effort to seek a second independent source or other corroborating evidence. When the pursuit of the public interest requires the use of a single confidential source in such a story, we will attempt to provide the comment and the context to the subject of the story in advance of publication for confirmation, denial or correction. Tacit affirmation, by anyone, no matter how highly placed or apparently knowledgeable, will not qualify as a secondary source." This attempts to do away with the suppositions, or assumptions, that got Newsweek into trouble in the first place.

Other American journalists have gone further and suggested that a policy adopted in the Washington Post during editor in chief Ben Bradlee's time be more widely adopted. The Post's policy was that when a source demanding anonymity or confidentiality was proven to have lied or misled the paper's reporters or editors, he would be unmasked. While other journalists, in particular those covering the Pentagon, think this is impractical, since the US defense establishment has careerists and political appointees both often unwilling to come out with facts or opinions in public, still, the suggestion shows how seriously the issue is being examined. While Newsweek, for example, has unhesitatingly decided in favor of the absolute responsibility of its reporters and editors, other journalists have issued a timely reminder on the responsibilities that should also be lived up to by sources, anonymous or not.



Let's wait for evidence on 'jueteng' links

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

COURTS interpret the flight of suspects as an admission of guilt. Whoever advised First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to "flee" to Singapore, just when he and his son Mikey were being linked to *jueteng* and both Houses of Congress are about to make their own investigations, gave him bad advice. The reason for the trip may be the truth: that it had long been planned by the Arroyo siblings and that the bad timing was just coincidence (though it really sounds fishy). But the impression given is that Big Mike was fleeing the investigations.

Nobody is saying that he is guilty yet, but it is inevitable that many people will think that way.

An already bad situation was made worse by the way he sneaked out of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (another bad advice): boarding early and not passing through the regular route of passengers to escape the press waiting to interview him. He could have left with head held high, not slinking off like a guilty man. After all, what's difficult with reporters' questions if you have the right answers?

What I am saying is that Big Mike may be getting a bum rap because of bad advice. Poor Mike, because of bad luck, his position as First Gentleman and the growing unpopularity of his wife the President, plus a host of other factors, he is the person Pinoys now love to hate. Many Filipinos are ready to believe anything bad about him. Even if God Himself were to boom from Heaven, "Hey earthlings, Mike A is an angel I sent down to earth" (get the connection? Mike is for Michael and A for Archangel) Pinoys will not believe it. They will say, "That's not God speaking. That's an impostor. It comes from the Dark Side."

To assuage the hurt, let me say that the bum rap is not unique to Big M. Other presidents had their own albatrosses around their necks. Quirino had his brother Tony, Magsaysay his brother Gene, Garcia his brother Cosme and his Executive Secretary Juan Pajo, and Macapagal his brother Star. Marcos had Imelda, the Romualdez clan and Gen. Fabian Ver. Cory had Kamaganak Inc., Ramos had his Baby and Erap his mistresses. Now Gloria has Mike.

All unpopular presidents had their lightning rods who became the object of the people's anger and hate. Some leaders are lucky when they are loved and admired by the people; some of their relatives and friends are unlucky when they become the lightning rods. Big Mike is plain unlucky.

To begin with, he is the perfect image of the *cacique* who abused his tenants and therefore were hated by Filipinos since the Spanish colonization. He is big, fat, flabby—and rich. He doesn't need boots and a whip to look like the classic villain. What's more, he has a high-pitched voice that does not match his big build.

Then there are all sorts of rumors about him, most of them bad, which people, alas, are ready to believe.

In a sense, it can be said that the bum rap he is getting is his fault. He could have chosen to be like the husband of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who did not attract attention to himself. He just disappeared into the woodwork. It was as though he didn't exist.

But Big Mike chose the other direction. Perhaps he was jealous of the celebrity status of his wife. Why is she better known than me when I am the head of the family? he must have wondered. So he went where the President went, had himself photographed with her, even toured the country on his own doing charity work—perhaps in the sincere desire to help his wife or to be liked as his own man.

But all these were taken the wrong way. Perhaps it was envy for all the reflected glory he was getting. Perhaps it was the natural suspicion that presidential relatives are enriching themselves. So the hatred grew and grew.

However, let us remember this: None of the many accusations against him have been proven. Perhaps some or all of them are true; perhaps none. We don't know yet. But fairness and Christian charity dictates that before condemning anybody, we should wait for proof. Do not bear false witness against your neighbor, God commands.

Perhaps the *jueteng* link is true; perhaps not. It is certain that many public officials have been tainted with *jueteng* money. Perhaps Big Mike is among them; but then, again, perhaps not.

What I am saying, in different ways, is that we should wait for evidence and testimony before jumping to conclusions about Big Mike. Give him a break.

* * *

In last Monday's "Letters" section, there was a letter from Dr. Budiono Santoso of the World Health Organization commenting on this column of May 12 which said that WHO press releases on counterfeit medicine may be hurting the Philippine government's own importations intended to provide cheap medicine for its citizens. That is not the case, wrote Santoso. "WHO has said that counterfeit medicine is often distributed across national boundaries but that does not mean that we view all imported drugs as fakes." Then he proceeded to describe very clearly what WHO means by counterfeit.

Why didn't WHO say so earlier? That's what I was driving at. WHO has issued so many press releases on counterfeit and fake medicine but none of them explained clearly what "counterfeit" means. The propaganda campaign of WHO and multinational pharmaceutical companies against "counterfeit" and "fake" medicine confuses the public into believing that all imported medicines are fake. Why doesn't WHO clarify this and state categorically that the medicines imported by the Philippine government through the Philippine International Trading Center (PITC), although much cheaper, are not fake?

More on this later.

Personal testament

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'VE wanted to write this piece for some time, but have hedged because I'm not sure what its effect would be on readers. I have no wish to give false expectations. I was emboldened however after reading an item on it on our front page last Sunday, that item being the conference held here recently on the effects of virgin coconut oil.

What I've wanted to write is my own experience with it.

I got a couple of bottles of virgin coconut oil last Christmas. I took no notice of it, having been a veteran tester of various herbal products that purported to ease or even cure my gout. That has included things from cherry extracts to alfalfa sprouts. None of it did the wonders they promised to work. So for a while my gift lay unappreciated in the pit of the cupboard. Since I wasn't using it anyway, my wife decided to donate one bottle to someone who seemed to need it more.

After some time, however, at a party, some people got to talking about the benefits of virgin coconut oil. A couple swore to its efficacy. I mentioned that I had gotten it as a present last Christmas, but I hadn't touched it. They eagerly pressed me into trying it. What had I got to lose? they asked. Well, they did warn me laughingly I stood to lose something, which was unwanted toxins, but in a most trying way. I decided to try it, not least so I'd have something to report to them next time they interrogated me.

I started taking the stuff a little more than three months ago (the label on the bottle said three tablespoons a day, but I took only two). The result for the first week was truly trying. For the first few days I was in the throes of uncontrollable farting. I decided to persevere and just refrained from going out. At the end of the week, however, I got a major-league LBM, the kind that sent me to the toilet repeatedly and at one point rather frighteningly. A friend of mine suggested that I drink Michael Jordan's favorite drink, Gatorade, to replenish lost fluids, which I dutifully followed.

The affliction lasted only a day, but left me with a hollow feeling in my stomach for the next couple of days. But after that, no more Jobian trials; it was smooth sailing all the way.

The results have been impressive. My caveat is that I could be imagining things or it may be all a coincidence. Three months may be too short a time to gauge things. Taking virgin coconut oil has not made my gout disappear, or lessened its visits. But it has made walking much easier, something I've been at pains to do for some time now, my left knee in particular having become a little stiff. A rheumatologist once explained to me that gout attacks deplete the joints of fluids, which makes for stiffness. The equivalent, he said, is motor oil slowly drying up on a car engine, which causes friction among the pistons. Who knows? Maybe the virgin coconut oil is replenishing the lost fluids on my knee? That is pure speculation, of course. But I personally don't care, I like what I'm feeling right now.

I've been having relatively high blood pressure as well for the last several years, which has bothered me. Well, for the last three months, I've been getting reasonably normal readings. Coincidence? Maybe. I've tried to live less stressfully, even if it's not always easy to avoid traffic and the company of people who want to talk politics with you when you're listening to a jazz band, whichever is the more stressful. But I don't care either, I like what I'm feeling right now.

For about a couple of years now, I've had a stiff neck, too, and saw a doctor about it some time ago. He said it was possibly a mild case of arthritis, aggravated by my work, which compels me to sit in front of a computer for long hours every day. At one point, I was having problems twisting my neck to look behind me when turning to my right while driving. That has rather wondrously disappeared for the most part. I do still experience some stiffness in my neck now and then, but that is more the exception than the rule.

On the whole I've never felt quite better.

The reason I've hesitated to write about this is not just that I haven't really had a long time to see how efficacious (or not) the thing is, but I've worried readers might think of it as a miracle cure. But our item last Sunday, which did proclaim it to have miraculously cured an HIV victim, has removed that weight upon my conscience. I do wish to help spread the good word about its benefits, at least as I have experienced it. Who knows? Maybe what's good for me can be so for others, too.

My added incentive is that there seems to be an effort on the part of the drug companies to hide the truth, or even thwart it with the fiction that coconut oil in general is detrimental to health. Completely by chance, I had just read John Le Carre's magnificent "The Constant Gardener"—his best since "The Spy Who Came In From the Cold," says one critic and I agree—which tells of the immoral and often murderous conduct of pharmaceutical companies in their bid for super profits, aggressively marketing unsafe drugs and viciously vilifying cheap alternatives. The story tells of the murder of a whistle-blower. But I leave you to discover its deliciously chilling secrets for yourself.

I half-suspect Conrado Dayrit, Manolet's well-named father, who has made pioneering studies on the salutary effects of coconut oil, may be a victim of it. How on earth can something so cheap, available, and wondrously efficacious remain so secret even now?

I can only hope I have not jacked up the price of the thing. Which is one last reason why I hedged about writing this. Thankfully my less pecuniary side won. Heaven knows everything is going up these days, except the height and honor of some people.

A voice from the street

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

YESTERDAY, as I was on my way to Makati from the domestic airport, following a flight from Bacolod City, a man selling newspapers knocked at the window of my utility pick-up and reprimanded my driver as we stopped for the red light just before entering the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The man said: "Can you tell your newspaper to change its headlines? I have not sold a paper for many days already. *Pa-ulit-ulit lang ang* headline. *Hindi nagbabago araw-araw.*" He must have been referring to the steady menu of scandals—notably the *jueteng* scandal—running on the front pages of newspapers, including the INQUIRER, for the past few weeks.

I could not argue with the man. It's time to listen to a voice from the street.

The press has been sustaining this daily output of scandal stories being fed and stirred into a national frenzy by accusations from politicians seeking an early change of government, from unidentified whistle-blowers, and from some do-gooding bishops, and by the response of a government that has declared an "all-out war" against *jueteng* to deflect allegations linking the President's husband, Mike Arroyo, and their son, Mikey, to *jueteng* payoffs.

During the past few weeks since the *jueteng* story grabbed the headlines, no new information or hard evidence has been presented by any source, including Sen. Panfilo Lacson and the bishops, to substantiate the allegations.

The newspaper vendor is not a solitary voice. The fact that he can't sell the papers suggests that there must be a grain of truth to his complaint and that the public may have developed fatigue over scandal stories that drive the front pages of newspapers, as though there is nothing else worth reporting in the life of this country.

While people are aching to see a government that can end corruption, and while corruption continues to be repulsive to the public, they seem to be sending the message to government, its critics and the press that they are fed up with the daily diet of scandals. The public seems to be sending the message that there is more to the life of the nation than just scandal mongering and that life must go on.

The apparent weariness of the public with regard to scandal news should prompt newspapers and their editors to examine themselves and see whether the old formula upon which they have built circulation and street sales—that is, scandals sell papers—is still valid. True, the main purpose of a newspaper is to disclose information that the public has a right to know, but it would seem that the public may have already reached the end of their patience after receiving a relentless pounding of scandal stories which are causing national demoralization. There seems to be no end to scandals, despite the vigilance of the press and its zeal in exposing corruption, and the "all-out wars" declared by the government of the day. It also appears that there is no lack of "whistle-blowers" and "crusades" led by overzealous bishops and priests who, in this country, have gone beyond saving souls to engage in political action. Some church leaders have even called for a change in government through the mobilization of people power, aligning themselves with conspiratorial retired generals.

Newspapers all over the world, including ours, are losing circulation due to the competition in supplying information from TV and radio. Newspapers have tried to arrest the circulation decline by broadening their appeal beyond the traditional way of keeping readers' loyalty—such as publicizing scandals, exposing government venalities and highlighting lurid crimes. They have also come to realize that newspapers have to identify themselves with other aspects of the life of their communities.

I should not be misunderstood as sponsoring the highlighting of "good news" or "positive news." But the public cannot be fed news about *jueteng* and corruption scandals every day, for days on end, without their senses being numbed by the unrelenting bombardment of stories that have not helped to reduce the scale of corruption. My brief is merely that people develop a sense of despair and hopelessness about their future by reading newspaper stories showing the daily life of a nation as nothing more than a litany of scandals and venalities.

I know of no other country in the world where the serious press is so obsessed with political scandals. There are many other developing societies that are as corrupt or even more corrupt than ours, but the main concern of their press, even if the press is relatively free, and of the political leadership and regime opponents, is not exposing corruption, although it is desirable that it is reduced, but getting things done, either within their parliamentary systems or their party systems.

Politics and good governance are not just about exposés on corruption. Other societies are concerned that public transportation facilities are adequate to bring people to work and home, that roads are good enough so that goods are distributed efficiently, that there are reasonably extensive health services and education facilities, and that people are safe and secure in their homes.

Newspaper headlines in other societies may denounce corruption, but they are also concerned with other issues that affect the daily lives of their citizens. Inordinate obsession with corruption and scandals is not the litmus test of freedom of the press. What the newspaper vendor I encountered is telling us is that people are tired of a press that tells no other story than political scandals to prove that it is free and vigilant.

Milk and lemons

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

GOTA de Leche (Drop of Milk) is among the oldest, if not the oldest, non-government organizations in the country. It was founded in 1906 by the same women who founded the Associacion Feminista Filipina (Filipina Feminist Association), whose centenary we observe this year, in celebration of the Centennial of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines.

Gota de Leche was organized to look after the many children orphaned in the years of fighting during the Philippine-American War. The name was derived from its main project: milk feeding for thousands of malnourished children, through volunteer wet nurses, as well as milk from live animals such as goats, cows and carabaos.

It was thus fitting that when the GO-NGO Network for the Centennial of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines began organizing activities to mark the occasion, one of the main projects they chose to sponsor was the "White Revolution: Philippines," in collaboration with other private organizations and the government, particularly the National Dairy Authority (NDA) and the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC).

Former Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani is the "nursemaid" of "White Revolution: Philippines," a name adapted from a similar project in India. As Shahani tirelessly explains at every opportunity, the development of the local dairy industry answers not only a very real nutritional need of Filipino children, but also the economic hardship confronting our farmers. As a briefing paper notes: "Quick action is necessary before the forces of globalization kill the precious growth of the local milk industry. And we have to act swiftly to reduce the gigantic bill of P50 billion which we annually pay for imported milk!"

* * *

WE HAVE a lot to learn from India, Shahani says. Previously a net importer of milk, India now is the world's biggest producer of milk and has become a major exporter. This it has achieved through the organization of farmers' cooperatives and the breeding of high milk-yielding cattle, such as the Murah buffalo "whose high milk output has made a major difference in rural dairy."

Over six million Filipino children suffer from malnutrition to some degree, while milk producers are hampered by poor marketing efforts and low productivity. The "White Revolution" seeks to "connect demand and supply for local milk." Donors may opt to support the National Milk Feeding Program of the NDA by donating at least P1,000 to provide one malnourished child one glass of free milk for 120 days. A donation of P35,000 to the Carabao Fund of the PCC is enough to buy one purebred carabao, which can produce from 5 to 10 liters of milk per day. The carabaos will be dispersed to deserving cooperatives or support coop-based carabao herd build-up activities to provide supplemental income to farmers.

Shahani says the PCC is currently involved in cross-breeding native carabaos, whose number is dwindling alarmingly, with Indian breeds, particularly those noted for high milk yields.

Also, carabao milk seems to be enjoying a resurgence, with bottles of labeled sterilized milk in grocery chillers replacing the home-delivered bottles with banana-leaf tops of yore. One thing that hasn't changed, though, is that carabao milk still tastes richer and creamier than the watery milk of the major brands. And let's not even talk about the low-fat or non-fat variety!

* * *

WHEN Mila Alora, a PR practitioner and good friend, first told me about her endless woes about her lemon of a car, a Chevrolet Optra, I chided her: "That's what you get for buying an American car!"

Perhaps that's an unfair characterization, given Filipinos' decided preference for Japanese makes or obsession with the snob appeal of Teutonic automobiles. But Mila's troubles with her car, which she bought in September of 2003, seem to prove right the Pinoy's bias against American brands, at least when it comes to cars.

In just one year and eight months, Mila has had to bring her brand-new unit to General Motors six times, for complaints ranging from a defective battery to a non-functioning car radio and CD, from leaking steering fluid to faulty spark plugs. The last time she used it, says Mila, the Optra "started shaking as if it was a helicopter going to crash with the engine emitting loud noises as it was going up the exit ramp of Greenbelt 3…with a foul odor permeating the interior of the car as if something was burning."

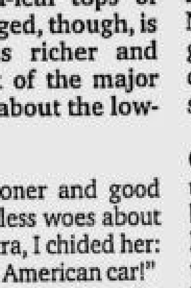
Through her Via Dolorosa with her Optra and with GM, Mila has been demanding that her lemon of a unit at least be replaced with another one. (Personally, I think she should ask for her money back with interest and something thrown in for all the aggravation.) While GM has been taking in the unit for repair and dutifully working on it, something always manages to go wrong afterwards. Mila rightfully asks: "What happens when the warranty finally runs out?"

* * *

THE SLINGS and arrows caused by the lemon she bought with her hard-earned money have turned Mila into a consumer advocate. In a letter she sent to the Bureau of Consumer Protection, she inquires: "If GM Automobiles Philippines can spend a fortune in advertising and public relations, ferrying motoring journalists from Manila to Bangkok for test drives just to have a good write-up about their vehicle, why can't the company attend first to the needs of the consumer who bought the product in good faith?"

For now, the problematic Optra is still in the GM garage, after Mila refused to take it back until the manufacturer replaces it with a brand-new unit that will, it is hoped, have a lot less problems. If "Life is a Journey," as the Optra ads proclaimed, then Mila's journey with her car has led her straight to car-owner hell.

The right way to sing the National Anthem



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

LAST week, I was invited to a cultural event in one of the shopping malls that started, as always, with a prayer and the singing of the National Anthem. When a young girl approached the microphone, it was fairly obvious that we would not be singing with a taped version of the anthem, and that we would have live singing without any musical accompaniment. Her voice was quite good, definitely "American Idol" material, but the Simon in me reared its ugly head when she started singing slowly as if the National Anthem was the "Ama Namin."

In the Philippines, we seem to equate seriousness and solemnity with slowness. The tempo was so excruciatingly slow that I gave up singing after the second line and asked myself, "Aren't we supposed to sing the anthem, as Julian Felipe, composed it in 1898: as a military march?"

Toward the end of the anthem, she picked up speed and people who had given up on the singing earlier started to join in. Then at the last line, she pumped up the volume and belted out the last word in a pitch that caught everyone off guard.

Wild applause followed; the audience liked her. Yes, the voice was good, the showmanship superb, but was this the way our anthem was supposed to be sung? Shouldn't the anthem be fast and martial?

This type of singing has its origins in the way Americans invite name performers to sing the US anthem to open major baseball or football matches. But why is the US more lenient with regard to the use of their flag and anthem than we are? Because we have a law that makes us so.

A few months back, Butch Jimenez came up with a brilliant proposal to get young people attuned to the National Anthem by asking various recording artists to do different versions of this familiar tune. The idea of updating the anthem to bridge the generation gap was excellent, except that under the present Flag and Heraldic Code such a project would be unlawful.

Can our youth still identify with a tune that is over a century old? Or do we reinvent or repackage that same tune to make our youth sit up, rap, or dance, as they revisit the past?

We take too many liberties with the National Anthem. Watch and cringe over videos shown during the last full-show in movie houses or those aired when television stations sign off. Choral groups are particularly at fault when they change the tempo, tone and pitch of the anthem to suit their artistic expression. Sometime back, one senator had a fit when a choral group performed in the Senate.

The object is to get the audience to sing or feel patriotic. The anthem is not there to showcase the vocal range of choral groups. Nobody seems to care that the Flag Code prescribes that the anthem be sung the way Julian Felipe composed it in 1898. Is this possible?

If we take the law literally, then we have to cope with a solo piano version or that of a brass band. If we follow the 1898 Felipe original, either the lyrics will slow down the music or we will be unable to sing and keep up with the music.

One of the things I dug up in the Newberry Library in Chicago was an original lithograph copy of the National Anthem printed in Hong Kong in 1899. I had this photocopied and asked my landlady, a piano teacher, to play it for me, using the metronome setting indicated in the piece. I was surprised that the anthem could be quite lively.

After playing it twice, my landlady asked why this piece was different from other versions of the National Anthem she had sight-read in the past. I explained that the copy in the Newberry Library was what Julian Felipe allowed to be reproduced and disseminated in Hong Kong in 1899. This piece was, after some improvements, basically how Emilio Aguinaldo heard the tune for the first time in Kawit in 1898. Felipe played it on the piano and, upon Aguinaldo's approval, trained a band to play it for the first time during the Declaration of Independence on June 12, 1898.

People have forgotten that the National Anthem started out as incidental music, that it did not have words when it was adopted as the National Anthem and first played officially during the Declaration of Independence. Jose Palma put in the Spanish words a year later, and this was later translated into English and known to the prewar generation as "Land of the Morning" but now known to us as "Lupang Hinirang" (or wrongly as "Bayang Magiliw").

The original, which was first composed for piano and later arranged for a brass band, was in 2/4 time. Then in the 1920s to make singing easier, the time signature was adjusted from 2/4 to 4/4 and the key was changed from the original C to G. It is unfortunate that Felipe's original holograph cannot be located, so we cannot see how far we have strayed musically.

In 1924, Felipe attempted and failed to get a copyright for his only memorable composition because it was deemed public property. However, the Philippine Legislature authorized the payment of P4,000 if he could turn over his original manuscript to the National Library.

While I have given up on Felipe's original in Manila, I'm optimistic that the contemporary copy presented to George Dewey in 1898 will be found in the US Library of Congress or in someone's attic someday and returned to the Philippines. If it's extant, it's like the elusive Holy Grail, but I will find it.

(Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu)

Will Indonesia overtake us?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I WAS at Singapore's Changi Airport (not to greet the First Gentleman) recently when a woman approached me, apparently confused. She showed me her boarding card and asked a question in Bahasa Indonesia.

I caught the word "dimana" ("where" in Indonesian) and figured she was asking for instructions. Actually she was the second Indonesian that morning to approach me for help to get to her boarding gate. I was waiting, too, for my own flight to Yogyakarta, but I realized there were quite a few flights going out of Singapore to various Indonesian cities.

I did get the Indonesian women to their gates and from my elementary Bahasa Indonesia, I found out that they were working in Singapore as domestic helpers. On my plane to Yogyakarta, from the shopping bags they had and their excited conversations, I estimated that at least half of the plane was filled with Indonesian helpers returning home.

Indonesian overseas workers

The airport encounters brought a sense of déjà vu to me. A few years back, I dreaded taking planes leaving Manila with lots of domestic helpers. Even before the plane would take off, I'd hear sobbing all around me, from young Filipinas being deployed abroad. Sometimes I'd hold my tears back as well, feeling the sense of helplessness they had.

I remember one Muslim Filipina who was carrying a little shoulder bag. As we landed in Kuala Lumpur, which was where we she was going to work, I asked her if she knew where to get her baggage. She looked at me incredulously, and pointed to her carry-on: "*Ito na.*" (This is it.)

At foreign airports, I'd also have Filipinas approaching me, like the Indonesians, to ask for help around the airport. Again, I remember one Filipina who didn't know she had to take a connecting flight to her final destination. I had to instruct her to check the airport's clocks so she wouldn't miss her flight because she didn't have a watch of her own.

Thankfully, flights returning to Manila were joyous events, marked by animated conversations and care-free laughter. When the plane landed, there was wild applause from the returning workers.

These days I sense our overseas workers have become jaded. Working overseas has become so much a part of our life, and the collective experiences have made our workers airport-wise, street-wise, world-wise. You see Filipinos strutting around confidently in groups, lugging duty-free goods. And when the planes land in Manila, it's rare now to hear applause. It's almost as if Filipinos are unhappy to be returning home.

Meanwhile, the Indonesians have slowly been moving in to get their share of the global labor market, especially for domestic workers. There are now more than two million Indonesian overseas workers, almost half of them deployed in Malaysia while the others are found in Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, and Singapore.

Filipinos probably still have an edge in some of these markets because we speak better English. (I was, in fact, surprised with the Indonesian women at Singapore's airport. I would have thought that after working in Singapore, they'd be able to speak in English.)

But we shouldn't think our familiarity with English will keep us ahead. In fact, in some circumstances, Indonesians may be preferred over Filipinos. Employers in the Middle East aren't too particular about English skills and prefer getting Muslim domestic helpers, and Indonesia provides a ready source.

But even in Hong Kong and Singapore, there's a growing demand for Indonesians, partly because they're perceived to be more docile and are willing to work for lower wages. That's global capitalism for you.

Racing ahead

Besides the overseas workers sector, I do wonder if Indonesia will eventually overtake us in terms of economic development. Among the original Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members—Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia—we've lagged behind all the other countries, except Indonesia, somehow keeping a notch ahead of it.

But Indonesia has been surging forward, threatening to overtake us. I've visited Indonesia many times over the last 20 years and in the 1990s, I was amazed at their infrastructure and social development programs. Indonesia was also adversely affected by Asian flu in 1997, but that might have been for the better: that crisis exposed weaknesses in the system brought about by corruption and cronyism. Even today, Indonesia remains hobbled by corruption—in Transparency International's corruption index, we rank 102nd in the world while Indonesia ranked 133rd, almost at the bottom of the list.

I looked up some statistics in the UN's Human Development Report and found Indonesia has a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of $3,230 while the Philippines' is $4,170. In terms of the Human Development Index, which aggregates economic and social development indicators, we rank 83rd while Indonesia ranks 111th.

But my sense is that Indonesia is moving faster than we are. They do have the advantage of being an oil-producing country and having many natural resources. We boast of 7,100 islands and a land area of 300,000 sq km, but Indonesia has 13,000 islands (okay, so like us, many disappear with high tide) spread out over 1.9 million sq km.

The Indonesians have a strong manufacturing sector. If you haven't noticed it yet, a lot of the glassware sold here now come from Indonesia and they're also now exporting wooden furniture to the Philippines. Some Indonesian companies have even become multinationals. One of these giants holds considerable shares in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (and Smart Telecommunications).

Population has been a problem for Indonesia, which now has 220 million people, many of them crammed into the island of Java (where major cities like Jakarta and Yogyakarta are located). An ambitious government transmigration program many years ago helped to disperse the population to other islands, but mainly it's been a family planning program that has helped Indonesia to move forward. Their annual population growth rate in 2000 was 1.4 percent while the Philippines' is more than 2 percent. The family planning program played an important role in helping Indonesia fight poverty. Today, while 37 percent of Filipinos live below the poverty line, in Indonesia the figure is 27.1 percent.

In 1975, the difference between the Human Development Index of Indonesia and the Philippines was .186. By 2004, this had been reduced to .061. The Indonesians are racing ahead but rather than thinking of all this as one big competition, we should look for ways of working together, learning from each other's experiences in fighting corruption and promoting human development.

The problem is our neocolonialist leadership

I DISAGREE with INQUIRER's May 17 editorial, "Substitution."

"If the country has not actually retrogressed," says the editorial, "it has been stuck in a social and economic rut for the past 50 years. In the 1950s and early 1960s, the Philippines was second only to Japan in terms of economic development in Asia. It has since been overtaken by South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. Now, Vietnam, which only recently recovered from a devastating war, threatens to overtake us."

Correct. But the editorial blames this on the "lack of enlightened, patriotic and forward-looking leadership," which could mean anything. This is what is wrong. For the fiasco is the result of the consistent and unwavering adherence of our national leadership—from 1946 to this very day in 2005—to the neocolonial policies imposed by the United States upon us. From 1950 to 1961, there was an attempt to deviate from the neocolonial path, as correctly noted in the editorial, but it was cut short by decontrol and devaluation in 1962. From 1963 onward, the neocolonial policies—set in motion by the Bell Trade Act and Parity in 1946, and now embodied as conditions to our P4.08 trillion public debt—have prevailed. These debt conditions are religiously obeyed by our national leadership and meticulously enforced by Washington through the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization.

Bringing "new, fresh faces into the game" is not the answer; the answer is a national leadership that is committed to take our country decisively out of the neocolonial box. If this leadership cannot be installed through elections, let it be installed through some other means. In South Korea, it was done by Park Chung Hee through a military coup. In Malaysia and Singapore, it was achieved by enlisting the Internal Security Act to the service of the national interest. As in China, Vietnam is doing it by marrying a communist government with a market economy. In Thailand under Thaksin, "nationalist economics" is doing the tricks.

Finally, our key problem is not "a corrupt and corrupting system" but neocolonialism. South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand are not less corrupt than the Philippines, but the critical difference is this: their governments have ceased to be neocolonial. Their governments are governing in the national interest; on the other hand, as shown by the recent enactment of the new value added tax law, our government governs primarily to please our creditors.

—**AMADO GAT INCIONG,**
Inciong and Associates,
Unit 301 Union Square Cond.,
145 15th Avenue,
Cubao, Quezon City

Is DOE setting up a power crisis in Panay?

THE LETTER of Energy Regulatory Commission chairperson Rodolfo B. Albano Jr. (PDI, 3/4/05), denying that his office has recommended the deferment of the Negros-Panay submarine cable uprating project, is disturbing. Commissioner Albano was reacting to a news item (PDI, 2/9/05) on the Department of Energy's decision to postpone by three years the uprating project, supposedly upon the recommendation of the ERC and its consultant. The ERC clearly stated it has neither made such recommendation nor hired any consultant for the project.

This is inexplicable considering that former Energy Secretary Vince Perez had been saying Panay Island will experience power shortage by 2007. Why then should the DOE postpone the project that will provide the island with additional 100 megawatts by 2006 or a year before the DOE's projected power shortage hits? This is a turn-key project with a secured financing. What will the DOE accomplish by postponing it? Is it just to prove the statement of Energy Secretary Perez that there will be a power crisis by 2007?

Any delay in the uprating project will impact on the energy security of Panay and Guimaras islands. The said project is in the Regional Development Council Medium Term Development Plan (2005-2010). Aside from the uprating project, the Regional Development Council of Region 6 has made plans to address the increasing energy demand with preference for renewable energy sources, like the Capiz biomass, Timbaban and Villa Siga hydro and the Pandan wind farm.

We hope current Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, who is from Panay, can clarify this issue and help push for the realization of RDC-Region 6 plans for renewable energy development.

—**MELVIN B. PURZUELO,**
principal coordinator,
Green Forum-Western Visayas,
Barangay Malipayon,
Delgado Street, Iloilo City

Admission of helplessness and incompetence

INTERIOR Secretary Angelo Reyes should realize that policemen and soldiers are armed and highly trained to protect themselves and, maybe, have accepted that death in the performance of their duty is highly possible as a consequence of their jobs. Is this the same with journalist? If anyone has the moral authority to complain as to whose death should get more media attention, definitely they are the families of political and human rights activists who have been victims of unrestrained killings—not Secretary Reyes.

The government has not even issued any strongly-worded statements to publicly condemn the killing of activists. Neither has it issued orders to create a special task force for the immediate arrest and prosecution of killers and to provide protection and assistance to the victims' family.

The policemen, soldiers and journalists are lucky to get the attention of the government or of the President herself. But not the political and human rights activists.

On May 12, Rev. Edison Lapuz became the latest victim in Leyte in the killings of human rights activists.

Reyes' unlikely complain displays his failure to address unrestrained killings. It's an indirect way of admitting his helplessness and inability to address the situation.

—**DANILO REYES,**
intern,
Asian Human
Rights Commission (AHRC),
19th Floor Go-up Commercial
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Mongkok, Hong Kong,
SAR, China

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1. Creative Zen Micro MP3 Player	Garry Sevilla	Bureau of Customs, General Santos City	Crized Computer
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4. Nokia 7270 Mobile Phone	Vicente C. David	4251 Lotus St., Sun Valley, Paranaque City	Silicon Valley
5. Olympus mju-mini Digital Camera	Rodel Mateo	54H Don C. Revilla St., Pasay City	Electroworld
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11. Epson EMP 61 Multimedia Projector	Maria Victoria David	Lot 4 Blk. 8, Athena St., North Olympus Subd., Novaliches, Quezon City	Asianic
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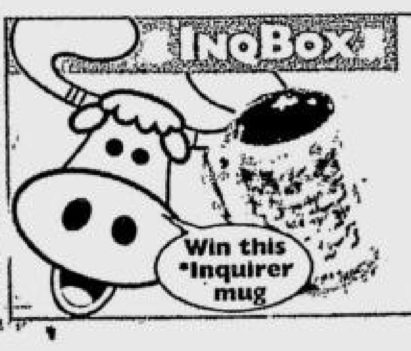

INQBOX
Question of the Week
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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

18 and in love with music of the masters

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

THE WORD relaxation is not in roly-poly pianist Oliver Salonga's vocabulary.

At 18, this burger-and-fries-loving piano performance major at the Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida, confesses, "Actually, I do not have time to relax. I practice my piano, rehearse with my ensemble or study for exams."

That is why his scheduled visit to Baguio City will be his chance to go wild, digging into the *ukay ukay* (used clothing) bins days before his concert at 7 p.m. on May 28 at the Baguio Country Club ballroom.

His program consists of a Beethoven sonata, a Liszt Transcendental Etude, and pieces by Chopin after he learned that the city's classical music aficionados are partial to the last composer.

A two-time first prize winner at the National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namcya) in 1998 and 2003, Salonga started music lessons at 7.

When he was about to graduate from the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) in Mt. Makiling, Laguna, where he was named the outstanding music graduate of his class, he realized that the piano would be his life's work and passion.

"Besides, I am happy sharing my talent with other people and inspiring other budding musicians," he said.

His past teachers included Teresita Perez, Chambi Soriano, Marvi Ortiz and Carmencita Arambulo, who prepared him for his first Namcya.

Arambulo also encouraged him to study at the PHSA and audition at Lynn, where he is on a full-tuition scholarship. He had also been coached by Rosario Licad (Cecile's mother), Sr. Angelina Gutierrez and Marietta Cruz.

At Lynn, he looks up to Dr. Roberta Rust, who helps him with his piano playing technique and musicianship. Her husband, Dr. Phillip Evans, coaches Salonga in chamber ensembles.

The Filipino scholar, who got straight As in music and academic subjects, happily reported that he just finished learning Schumann and Brahms' piano quintets this last semester. He says, "I am happy working with them. They bring out the best in me."

Most people in South Florida have come to know of Salonga for his positively received performances, some held at hospitals as a means of music appreciation, at the Steinway Gallery and throughout Boca Raton.

Salonga hopes that his Baguio concert won't be his last. He considers the city "a nice place to relax and have some fun. Based on my previous performances in Northern Luzon, the people are really attentive and musically inclined. I did not expect the audience in Tuguegarao to be that enthusiastic, especially about classical music."

TICKETS are available at Baguio's Café by the Ruins or call (02) 9017156 or (0918) 7376901. Salonga will be heard again with cellist Victor Michael Coo and the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra June 12 at 8 p.m. at the Philamlife Auditorium, United Nations, Manila. Coo will also hold a concert at the BCC on June 24.

How Ilocano fiestas evolved

By Frank Cimatu
Vigan City

WITH the way the Ilocano people are spending for their fiestas these past years, you would think they were on a splurge.

Solano town in Nueva Vizcaya, Laoag City in Ilocos Norte, and Lasam town in Cagayan are in the thick of a fight on which has the longest *tupig* (grilled rice cake wrapped in banana leaves).

Laoag is again challenged by Cabanatuan City and the City of San Fernando in Pampanga for the longest *longganiza*, although Vigan boasts of having the "Longganiza Festival."

Santiago City in Isabela and Sta. Maria town in Ilocos Sur both hold the "Pinakbet Festival." The biggest *calamay* (another rice cake variant) on record in Candon City was gone in 10 minutes.

Tikanlu, for travelers, is a city in Iran. But for locals, it is a new festival in Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, which is a contraction of *tinupig-kankanen-lublubi* (rice and cassava cakes and other native delicacies).

Every town in the Ilocos provinces seemed to have its festival.

Some said these were adopted from Baguio's 10-year-old Panagbenga or the flower festival. John Hay Poro Point Development Corp. and Camp John Hay Development Corp. started the Panagbenga as a way to fill the gap between the influx of tourists who traditionally come during the Christmas holidays in December and during the Holy Week in late March or April.

But then some would tell you that Viva Vigan is older because it was started 12 years ago by the Save Vigan Ancestral Houses Association Inc. and the KaiVigan or Friends of Vigan to drum up publicity for the inclusion of Vigan in the Untied Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's World Heritage List, which the city eventually got.

Secular fiestas

Viva Vigan and Panagbenga are essentially secular fiestas, unlike the traditional ones rooted in the celebration of the town's saintly patrons.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson said the Filipino fiesta originated in Sevilla, Spain. He said fiestas there would last for days and the activities set only in colorful tents called *casetas* where revelers communally danced the flamenco and ate their *tapas*.

During the tobacco festival in Candon last year, Singson provided each village in the city with their own *casetas* that were in turn huddled in one area to show their unity in diversity.

So these are the three festivals making differences in Ilocano fiestas, according to local officials and cultural observers.

But Japanese anthropologist Itaru Nagasaka begged to differ.

In his paper, "Festivity, Overseas Migration and Local Politics: Transformation of the town fiestas in Ilocos, Philippines," Nagasaka said it was the *balikbayan* (returning residents based abroad) and the local politicians who brought in the changes.

ILOCOS girls join festivities celebrating the foundation day of San Fernando City in La Union. EV ESPIRITU

He identified the village of Sidiran (now Sulquiano) in Dingras town in Ilocos Norte, as the locus of his study, making differences about the beauty and popularity contests and how politicos angled themselves in photo shoots.

He said fiestas in Ilocos had been evolving since the 1970s.

"This does not necessarily indicate the total decline of the fiesta itself, rather, it is found that some aspects of the fiesta have been intensified," Nagasaka said.

Grandest event

One aspect is the role of the *balikbayan*. He said the balikbayan in Ilocos, who have been leaving their homeland for greener pastures for almost a century, have made Balikbayan Day almost the grandest event.

"The Catholic Church and the Independent Church (Iglesia Filipina Independiente or Aglipayan Church), both of which had once played significant roles in the town fiesta, take little part in the present town fiesta of Sidiran," Nagasaka said.

He said although the balikbayan may have helped diminish the religious aspect, the change of the agriculture cycle also has a lot to do with the secularization.

In Sidiran, for example, most of the balikbayan are domestic helpers from Hong Kong. Although their status in the town was lower when they left. When they returned as presidents of the associations in Hong Kong, they began to pin sashes and act as judges in beauty contests.

In Candon, for example, a medical technologist based in the United States made it her *panata* (vow) to come home during the fiesta to be a judge for the male entries of the bikini contest.

Nagasaka, however, said that although the balikbayan have a say in the fiestas, this does not translate to power in local politics.

In Sidiran, as in many places in the Ilocos provinces, local power is still held by the few and, in some instances, migrant organizations from as far as the mainland US, Hawaii and Greece are still influenced by local politicos back home, he said.

As a result, the participation of the balikbayan in fiestas does not affect the local political structure but rather reproduces it. Nagasaka said the factionalism in migrant organizations abroad reflects the factionalism of local politics.

WHERE HAVE THE PROMISES GONE?

We are innocent sub-locators and investors who, in good faith, entered into business in Camp John Hay on the assumption that we would enjoy for **fifty (50) years** the tax and financial incentives guaranteed by the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) in the John Hay Special Economic Zone.

But now we stand to be unwilling casualties of the Supreme Court Decision withdrawing and nullifying with finality the John Hay SEZ tax and duty exemptions.

With the John Hay SEZ tax and duty exemptions withdrawn, we would have to contend with a 32% net income tax regime, value added tax, documentary stamp taxes, real property taxes, local business taxes, import duties and other similar fees and imposition, none of which we expected when we entered into business and/or bought residential homes in Camp John Hay.

Where have the promises gone? You promised us fifty (50) years of John Hay SEZ tax and duty exemptions. You promised that if the private sector invested in Camp John Hay with the Philippine Government as partner, it would be good for the economy and the country. You - the BCDA, promised we could count on your word.

We have become innocent victims of circumstance. Like all other legitimate business enterprises, we have simply aspired to continue the legacy of Camp John Hay as a premier multi-use forest tourist destination. We labored to improve the quality of lives of our employees, the tourists, as well as the Baguio community in general who have come to enjoy our business and recreational facilities.

It is reassuring that the developer CJH Development Corporation is doing everything within its power to protect our stakes, rights and interests in the John Hay Special Economic Zone.

We now appeal to BCDA and its estate manager, the John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC) to:

1. Extend to us the same assurance that you would protect our rights as investors/sub-locators!

2. Protect us from the adverse consequences of the Supreme Court Decision!

3. Honor the John Hay SEZ tax and financial incentives BCDA guaranteed in 1996!

Finally, to both BCDA and CJHDevCo, we make this appeal –

Work out a viable and mutually acceptable long-term solution to the problem!

... So that we may be assured of our future!

... So that this incident may not scare legitimate investors from doing business with the government or with our country.

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Inbound Pacific, Inc.

Juanito "Johnet" Flavier
Little John's Convenience Outpost, Inc.

Heinrich L. Mahlbecker
General Manager
Camp John Hay Manor

Ramon Salvador
General Manager
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Focus on 'jueteng' keeps eyes off Visayas gambling

By PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—If "jueteng" is popular in Central Luzon, each of the Visayan provinces has its own preferred illegal numbers game, which continues despite efforts of the police to stop it.

The dominant form of illegal gambling in Western Visayas is "daily double," where a bettor selects a three-digit combination from numbers 1 to 37. For a minimum bet of 25 centavos, the lucky winner can win P100.

Other types of illegal numbers game in Western Visayas include "ending," which is based on scores of games of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) and "Pick 2" and "Pick 3," using combinations of numbers from results of the national lottery.

Video carrera is prevalent in Central Visayas, especially in Cebu, although there are some who still bet on "masiao".

"Pick 3" and "two-digit or ending" are preferred numbers games in Eastern Visayas.

But the police have stepped up a campaign to verify the existence and extent of operations of illegal gambling per municipality after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a crackdown on illegal gambling.

Chief Supt. Doroteo Reyes II, police director for Western Visayas, said illegal gambling was not widespread in the Western Visayas.

Police records in Western Visayas said 119 persons had been arrested for their suspected involvement in illegal gambling since January.

Supt. Wesley Barayuga, chief of the Regional Operation and Planning Division, said most of the cases involved daily double.

Senior Supt. Charles Calima, Negros Occidental police director, said illegal gambling in the province was not rampant and alarming.

Still, he said he directed the police to make arrests.

Calima said three gambling groups operate in Negros Occidental, the most famous of which is the "Camia group."

Masiao was also present in La Castellana and Moises Padilla towns, allegedly run by a financier in Canlaon City, Negros Oriental, he added.

Masiao, a combination of three numbers, was used to be pegged on the results of jai alai games in Manila. Like the daily double, a bet of 25 centavos can win P100.

When the fronton closed down in the mid-1990s, the police did not know where the operators base their winning combinations.

Chief Insp. Manuel Hidalgo, Dumaguete City police chief, said masiao or "bagdok" was not that big in Dumaguete and no arrest had been made.

He said efforts have been confined to illegal cockfights in the barangays. *Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Carla P. Gomez, Joey A. Gabieta, Alex V. Pal and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Fake receipts traced to Pampanga gov't

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The provincial government issued fake receipts in the collection of taxes from the hauling of Mt. Pinatubo sand, an accredited printer of the capitol confirmed to the National Printing Office.

Edwin Mendoza, plant manager of the Ready Form Inc., certified on May 19 that at least 19 of 24 receipts brought by the NPO for verification were "not printed by our company and can be considered 'fake.'"

The serial numbers of the fake receipts did not belong to the forms it printed under contract from the provincial government.

These did not also bear the security watermarks especially assigned by the company to the capitol, Mendoza told Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao who received the verification report on Monday.

Provincial Administrator Fidel Arcenas, also vice chair of the provincial quarry task force, wanted to "get to the bottom" of this long-running controversy that he said had "maligned" Gov. Mark Lapid.

Provincial Treasurer Vergel Yabut had earned a standing motion for arrest for denying to the House committee on natural resources that bogus receipts proliferated in Pampanga's sand industry.

Arcenas said strict measures had been put in place to ensure that no fake receipts were used in the young Lapid's term.

Some fake receipts, obtained from capitol-managed checkpoints recently, were stamped with "Pampanga Treasurer's Office Pampanga" and the name of Yabut as collecting officer.

Mendoza said only five of the 24 receipts were printed by the RFI under Job Order No. 10398.

RFI, which has plants in Marikina and Mandaue cities, got the contract on April 14, 2004 or less than three months before the governor's father, Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, completed his third and final term as governor.

The contract requires the production of "personalized Accountable Form 51" that bore the seal of the provincial capitol and other confidential security watermarks approved by the NPO, the agency that prints forms for government transactions.

ROUNDUP

Cassava, banana in Bondoc

LUCENA CITY—Quezon Vice Gov. David Suarez and Department of Agriculture officials last week distributed cassava and banana planting materials to members of the Lakas ng Ugnayan sa Kanayunan para sa Demokrasya (Lukad) from Macalelon, General Luna, Mulanay and Catanuan. Suarez said this is a pilot program of the Agribusiness Development Project, which President Macapagal-Arroyo introduced during her visit here in February. It was learned that San Miguel Corp. and See Foods Corp. both pledged to buy the harvests and that SMC would lend two farm tractors to till about 300 hectares of the target farm land until the arrival of farm animals. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

35 held for illegal fishing

CALAMBA CITY—Members of an anti-illegal fishing task force in Cavite arrested 35 persons on board two commercial fishing vessels and suspected to be involved in fine mesh net fishing in the municipal waters off Maragondon town on Saturday night. Magallanes Mayor Menong Maligaya, head of Task Force Rainbow, said residents tipped off the barangay intelligence network on at least six commercial fishing vessels seen entering the municipal waters in Barangay Patungan. The fisheries code bans commercial fishing boats from entering municipal waters. Arrested were 16 crew members, including the captain, of FV Otik, a 7.5-ton vessel from Navotas. Also arrested were the captain and 18 crew members of a 6.5-ton fishing vessel from Malabon. ***Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Ban motorcycles–Gordon

BAGUIO CITY—In the wake of reports that most assassins use motorcycles and are never caught, Sen. Richard Gordon said he had filed a bill seeking to ban motorcycles that lack identification from the streets. In a press forum here on Friday, Gordon said the bill also seeks to require motorcycle drivers to wear helmets that bear the vehicle's plate number and driver's name. "Nobody can ride a motorcycle without a written plate number and name on the helmet. So if there is a driver who is running his motorcycle without his helmet, we can stop him and ask 'Do you have a gun?' If he does not meet the requirements, then he has a violation," he said. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

2 nabbed for 'jueteng'

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Police arrested on May 19 two suspects involved in "jueteng" in Calamba City, and confiscated illegal video gambling paraphernalia in Sta. Cruz town. Calamba police identified the suspects caught in possession of jueteng paraphernalia as Isidro T. Castillo, 42, and Simon G. Panganiban, 49, farmer, both residents of this city. Confiscated from the two suspects were 14 jueteng lastillas, two ballpens and cash amounting to P395 in different denominations. Sta. Cruz police and village authorities confiscated illegal gambling materials, fruit game and video karera at the house of barangay secretary Oscar Molera in Barangay Pagsawitan. ***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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OYSTER FUN
Crispin Quimno of Caoayan, Ilocos Sur arranges the connected shells of oysters locally known as *tirem* to be kept after their harvest. The program is part of the oyster and fish production assisted by Accion Contrael Hambre in cooperation with the city government of Vigan and municipality of Caoayan, Ilocos Sur.
LEONCIO G. BALBIN JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON

COA tells 50 docs to return P7M in fees

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Commission on Audit has ordered 50 public and private medical practitioners at the government-run hospital here to return the P7.8 million they received as professional fees.

Helen Cailing, state auditor here, made the recommendation in her audit report to the COA regional office.

In the same report, Cailing said by collecting professional fee, the 50 public and private doctors at the City Integrated Hospital Services (CIHS) had violated the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 and the city ordinance, City Ordinance 9, series of 2004.

During the audit conducted by Cailing on CIHS, she found that 50 private and public doctors serving at the hospital were able to receive a total amount of P7.8 million from Philhealth as payment of patients who used Philhealth cards.

Public doctors at CIHS were holding plantilla or regular positions while private practitioners were receiving honorarium for the services they render.

Several doctors who got the payment signified their willingness to return the amount they collected from Philhealth after the controversy broke out.

But Jamil Mamotoc, adjudication chief of COA in Central Mindanao, told reporters that returning the amount would not clear them of their criminal and administrative liabilities.

CIHS is run by the city government.

Benjamin Pagarigan, CIHS medical director, told reporters that it would be unfair if the public and private medical practitioners are prosecuted for receiving professional fees. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Bishops seek selective, not total, log ban

COTABATO CITY—The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) wants the government to implement a selective log ban instead of totally outlawing the cutting of trees.

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, former president of the influential body, said a selective logging ban would ensure that indigenous communities would not be deprived of their livelihood.

Many tribal people depend on cutting of trees to feed their family.

"Since their lives depend on it, it is their obligation to protect the source of their well-being," he said.

Quevedo said the cutting of trees would only be allowed in non-watershed areas.

Quevedo also clarified reports that the CBCP was advocating for the lifting of the government-imposed log ban.

"We have never, never advocated (for a) total log ban in the whole Philippines," he said.

He said contrary to claims by some quarters, he did not write President Macapagal-Arroyo a letter on the logging issue.

"I did not write a letter. I do not know the [ecological] situation of other areas in Mindanao such as Zamboanga, Agusan," he explained.

Quevedo said what the CBCP endorsed in two separate pastoral letters during his reign was a "total log ban on all watershed areas in the Philippines."

"I would not sign a letter that would have [endorsed] a log ban in Zamboanga or Agusan because I do not know these areas. I would rather be interested in looking at the situation in places where I am familiar with like Cotabato, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato, whose forest covers had drastically dwindled," he said.

The government ordered a total log ban following disasters that struck Quezon and Aurora provinces as a result of forest denudation. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Billboards to match commercial ads' size to warn of road risks

TUBA, Benguet—Thinking of ways to prevent accidents along the dangerous portion of the Marcos Highway here, the Department of Public Works and Highways has taken a cue from those eye-catching giant commercial billboards that dot Metro Manila's skyline.

HECK YOUR AKES
PARA SA MAS LIGTAS NA BIYAHE !
IIPAN

"We might as well erect giant road warning signs along the highway so that they will be readily visible to motorists when negotiating the sloping portion of the area," Mariano Alquiza, DPWH Cordillera regional director, said.

Alquiza said most of the accidents reported in the area are due to human error and the installation of giant road signs will caution drivers into slowing down their vehicles when approaching the area.

Ugly memory

"We hope to avoid another accident," he said, referring to what happened on May 11 when a Dagupan-bound Byron bus got wrecked after it rammed into a boulder along the highway.

Twenty nine passengers were killed, including the driver and conductor, while 13 others were injured.

Asked how big the road signs would be, Alquiza said they will come in the size of two plywood boards that can match the size of commercial billboards. Currently, the DPWH prints road signs on sturdy materials measuring two feet by four feet. A standard plywood measures four feet high and eight feet long.

Alquiza said the road signs will contain in big bold letters the warnings "slippery when wet," "check your brakes," "shift to low gear," "slowdown, accident prone area ahead," and "reduce speed."

Human error

He said most of the accidents that happened along the 1.5-km stretch of the highway, which forms part of Barangay Badiwan here, can be attributed to the drivers' failure to heed road signs.

"They could have ignored the road signs or they simply failed to see them when fast approaching the downward slope of the road. Now that the signs will really be big, they will now be easily seen by the drivers," he said.

The Office of Civil Defense said that from 1999 to 2005, 32 vehicular accidents, including the May 11 mishap, occurred along the same stretch of the highway. These accidents killed 69 passengers and injured 36 others.

"The steep downgrade of the road requires any driver to shift to low gear. The shift must be done when the vehicle is already approaching the start of the road's downward slope and not when the vehicle is already in the middle of the steeping portion," he said.

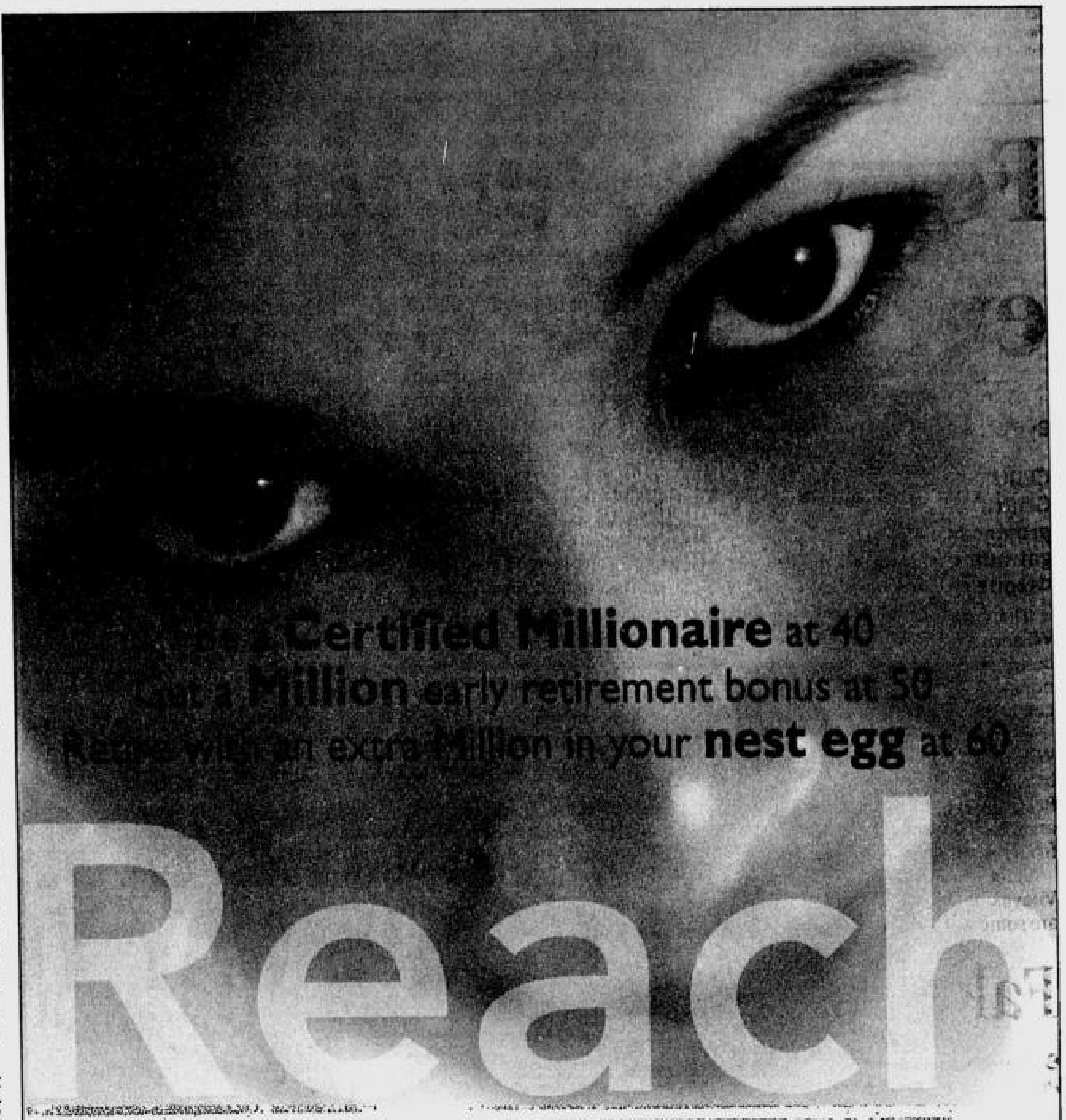
International standard

Alquiza said the signs will follow the international standard colors of green and white or blue and white. Red and white signs are given to corporate sponsors who, he said, will also be asked to enlarge their road signs.

The DPWH will also install "rumble strips" along Badiwan similar to those found along the newly refurbished North Luzon Expressway, he said.

The rumble strips are white painted strips placed across roadways to alert motorists as they approach dangerous situations such as stop signs or sudden change in the road grade or profile.

The strips create a noise in the vehicle as a warning for drivers to slow down, Alquiza said. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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No more 'jueteng' in 3 regions . . .

From page A1

out in Region IV-A [Calabarzon] except in the four Batangas towns of Bauan, Taal, Padre Garcia and San Nicolas, and in the Quezon towns of Tiaong and Sariaya, Lomibao asserted.

But the rest of the Calabarzon provinces—Cavite, Laguna and Rizal—were free of jueteng, according to Lomibao.

Even so, he acknowledged that jueteng still persisted in 21 towns of Region V [Bicol], such as in Albay (3 towns), Camarines Sur (6), Camarines Norte (3), Sorsogon (7) and Masbate (1).

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, newly appointed PNP National Capital Region chief, said jueteng was gone in his area.

"It has stopped in Metro Manila," he said.

But reports from INQUIRER teams around Luzon painted a picture less rosy than that drawn by the PNP brass. *(See related story at right.)*

The picture that emerged from the reports of INQUIRER provincial correspondents showed that jueteng remained like the multi-headed hydra it is—you cut off one head and the mythical serpent sprouts new ones.

Certifications by Friday

For reasons he did not explain, Lomibao did not clear Region IV-B (Mimaropa), consisting of Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan, and the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR).

Lomibao based his announcement on reports submitted by regional directors in Luzon, whom he called to a conference.

He gave the rest of the provincial police chiefs and municipal/city chiefs of police until Friday to clear their areas of jueteng.

"I've given instructions to the regional directors of affected areas that I will be constrained to take drastic action against the chiefs of police if they can't stop jueteng in two days," Lomibao said.

He gave them until Friday to submit "certifications" that jueteng operations had been wiped out in their areas.

The certifications are to be signed by the mayor and the parish priest of each particular area.

Cops relieved

Lomibao announced he had relieved the chiefs of police of Tiwi, Alba and Tinambac in Camarines Sur for failing the "one-strike policy" he laid down last Saturday.

Under that policy, police chiefs of towns and precinct commanders in Metro Manila would be automatically relieved if higher authorities catch even just one jueteng collector in their respective areas.

Relieved were Senior Insp. Oscar Regala and Insp. Amado Montana of Tiwi and Tinambac, respectively, where "jueteng activities continue unabated," Lomibao said.

The PNP presented 35 suspected jueteng collectors who were recently arrested in Metro Manila and nearby Calabarzon.

After reporters showed incredulity at his announcement of success, Lomibao cut short the press conference after only two questions, saying he had to go to the Senate for a presentation.

One reporter asked how Lomibao was able to verify that jueteng was gone in Cavite.

"The report of the provincial director is that it is now jueteng-free," replied Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, chief of PNP-Region IV.

Another media man asked Versoza why his hometown in Batangas was cleared when the former knew that jueteng persisted there.

Versoza said he would have the matter checked.

PNP records showed what seemed like the tip of the jueteng iceberg.

From January to April this year, 5,138 jueteng collectors were arrested, but only less than half, or 2,158, were charged in court with illegal gambling.

The PNP reported it confiscated a total of P4.57 million in cash bets from these collectors.

'Jueteng' still alive in S. Luzon

By the PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

JUETENG goes on in parts of Southern Luzon, especially in Batangas province, where it is rampant, the INQUIRER has learned.

The P74.8 million-a-month illegal gaming industry in Batangas is allegedly run by a *jueteng* lord known by his alias "Taba" (Fatso).

With the exception of Batangas City, where an anti-jueteng crackdown started last year, and Lipa City, where jueteng operations were ordered stopped by Sen. Ralph Recto, the rest of the province's 31 towns plus Tanauan City were still largely under the jueteng grip.

But while operations in the two cities had stopped, jueteng collectors from Ibaan town still collected bets.

Ibaan mayor Artemio Chua insisted jueteng had been stopped in his town since last week.

In Balayan town, known as the bailiwick of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, jueteng was still going strong, with three draws every day. Each draw brings in a whooping P600,000.

According to an INQUIRER source, town officials down to the barangay level allegedly receive weekly or monthly payola.

The amounts supposedly range from a low of P2,000 a week to as high as P450,000 a month, depending upon the position of the official, said the source, who is also one of the town's biggest landlords.

Alleged bagman

The source alleged it was an official in the town's Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) who was in charge of delivering the jueteng payola.

The source said Ermita's stand against jueteng was the butt of jokes in Balayan.

"How can he accuse the media and the people who are exposing the First Family's [alleged] jueteng links when he can't even stop jueteng in his own hometown?" the source said.

The INQUIRER called Balayan Mayor Benjie Martinez, Ermita's nephew, but he did not answer his cell phone.

In Tanauan City, jueteng is still drawn twice a day, according to a long-time official source of the INQUIRER, but Mayor Alfredo Corona said it was only a rumor.

"The jueteng operations here have totally stopped. Even parish priest Fr. Dado Castillo certified that there was no more jueteng in Tanauan City," Corona said.

In Bauan town, the jueteng operations allegedly run by a town official resumed after he signed a power deal with a company allegedly owned by a high provincial official, an INQUIRER source said.

The town official signed the deal after the provincial official supposedly ordered jueteng operations in Bauan stopped if the contract was not concluded, the source said.

The source added that jueteng in Bauan was drawn three times a day.

"Every draw, the official earns about P60,000. That's why he can't afford to lose the jueteng operations here," the source added.

Certifications needed

The INQUIRER tried to contact Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez but he would not answer his cell phone.

According to Sr. Supt. Francisco Don Montenegro, jueteng operations in Batangas had stopped.

"We've got certifications from town and city mayors, parish priests and police chiefs that jueteng operations in their areas of responsibility have been fully stopped," Montenegro said, "But as of now, we haven't got all the certificates from Batangas' three cities and 31 towns. Those certifications might be here this afternoon."

Jueteng operations still go on in Oriental Mindoro.

In an earlier interview, Gov. Arnan C. Panaligan said jueteng was syndicated and, thus, could not easily be stopped.

Fr. Allan Fallaria of Baco town said he would only believe that jueteng was gone if it ceased for several months and not only when a "report card" needed to be submitted.

He refused to sign a document of the police vouching that jueteng was gone from his parochial jurisdiction.

Still on in Calamba

A jueteng bet collector in Calamba City in Laguna said the illegal numbers game in the province continued although authorities were arresting bet collectors.

Draws are being held in Bay town but only twice a day, instead of three times a day, as previously done.

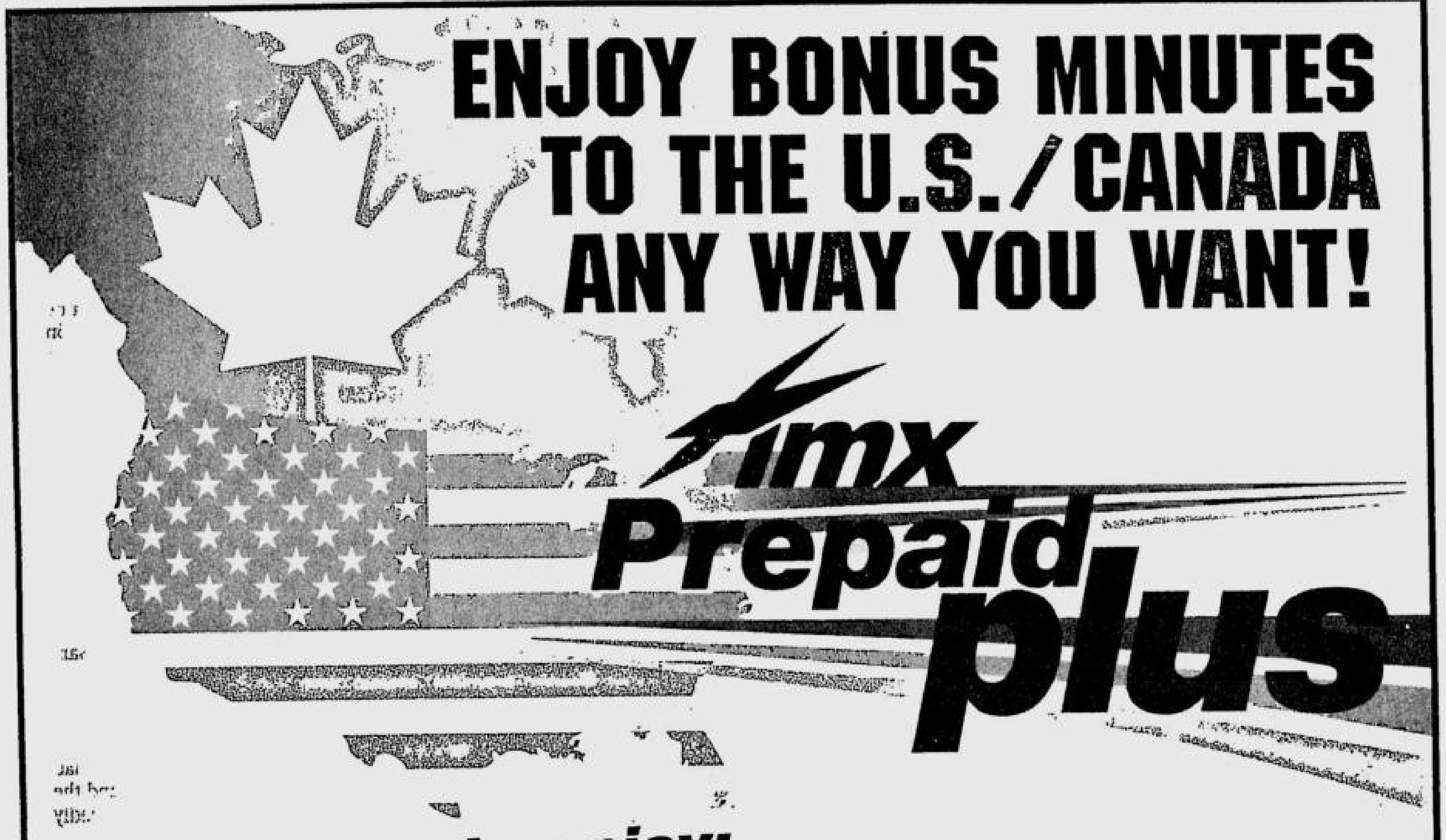
In Cavite, a police officer who requested anonymity said jueteng continued but through bookies. It's still jueteng but without the blessing and knowledge of the big-time operators or gambling lords.

Draws were allegedly held in Las Piñas and Parañaque cities.

It is in the third district of Cavite that jueteng is still rampant, the police official said.

In Sorsogon, the Provincial Police Office has organized an anti-illegal gambling task force as a first step toward an all-out war against jueteng, which has not stopped in the province.

A veteran newspaperman in Camarines Norte reported that jueteng operations continued in the province and claimed it could not be stopped because a top official had a hand in the numbers game. *With reports by Mei Magsino, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Bobby Labalan, Madonna T. Virola, Juan Escandor Jr., Marlon Ramos and Julie Ann Berdin, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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LTFRB defers May 26 fare increase

By Clarissa S. Batino

OPPOSITION to the P2 fare increase prompted the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) yesterday to defer the implementation of the jeep and metro bus fare hike originally scheduled for May 26.

LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista said the board would act on several petitions from those opposed to the move before allowing jeeps and buses to start collecting the P2 increase.

One motion is from a commuter organization asking that the fare increase be slashed to P1 instead of P2. Another is a request of jeepney groups to increase to P2 the P1 fare hike approved for Regions 6 (Visayas), 10 (Northern Mindanao), 11 (Davao) and 12 (Socsargen and Caraga).

"The board has deferred the implementation of the jeep fare hike nationwide pending the resolution of the case," said Bautista. The P2 increase in metro non-air-conditioned bus fares was also deferred because of a petition against the move filed by Antonio Baltazar, she added.

LTFRB board member Felix Racadio said the parties filed their respective petitions for reconsideration within the 15-day period set by the body after a fare hike decision was made. The increase was approved on May 9.

"According to the rules, if a petition was filed within 15 days after a decision was made, we have to act first on the petition before allowing the implementation of a fare hike," said Racadio in an interview.

He said the LTFRB gave the parties a maximum of five days to submit their position, and another five days to reply to the position of the opposing group.

"This means an average of 10 days before the LTFRB would deliberate on the issues," Racadio added.

The National Council for Commuter Protection Inc. (NCCPI) said the LTFRB may hand down a decision on June 17.

The commuters' group said the P2 increase was unfair, unjustified and excessive. NCCPI president Elvie Medina said the fare hike should only have been P1 instead of P2.

Efren de Luna, president of the Philippine Confederation of Drivers Organization-Alliance of Concerned Transportation Operators or PCDO-Acto, however, said the NCCPI was employing "delaying tactics." "Why are they opposing the hike only now when it is about to take effect?" asked De Luna.

He added that fuel prices and the number of passengers were not the only factors that determined the take-home pay of a driver in a day.

"They have to consider our investments as well as the cost of spare parts, the fees we pay to the LTFRB and the money drivers shell out to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and local government units every day for traffic violations and various offenses," said De Luna.

Medina said the LTFRB gave her the formula it used in deciding the rate increase only two days before handing out the decision on May 9.

She said the formula was important because it would be the basis of the NCCPI's petition.

The NCCPI claims to have 10,000 members who volunteer to help advance the cause of commuters. The group, said Medina, strongly opposed the P2 fare hike during the public hearings.

She said that diesel prices went up by only 45 percent from May 2004 but the fare would have increased by 87.5 percent on May 26 because the LTFRB had already granted two fare hikes since then.

The assumptions submitted by transport groups to justify their fare hike petitions were "totally without basis, erroneous, misleading, self-serving and do not reflect actual situations," Medina added.

They love Italy

By Margaux C. Ortiz

ITALY remains the top choice for victims of illegal recruiters in the Philippines, according to an official of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

NBI Anti-Human Trafficking Division (AHTRAD) chief Romulo Asis said they receive an average of 225 complaints from illegal recruitment victims per month. Many of them were supposed to be on their way to Italy.

"The complainants say they picked Italy over other countries in Europe because their Filipino contacts there said it was easy to find jobs for them there," Asis said, adding that the Italians were also tolerant of illegal workers.

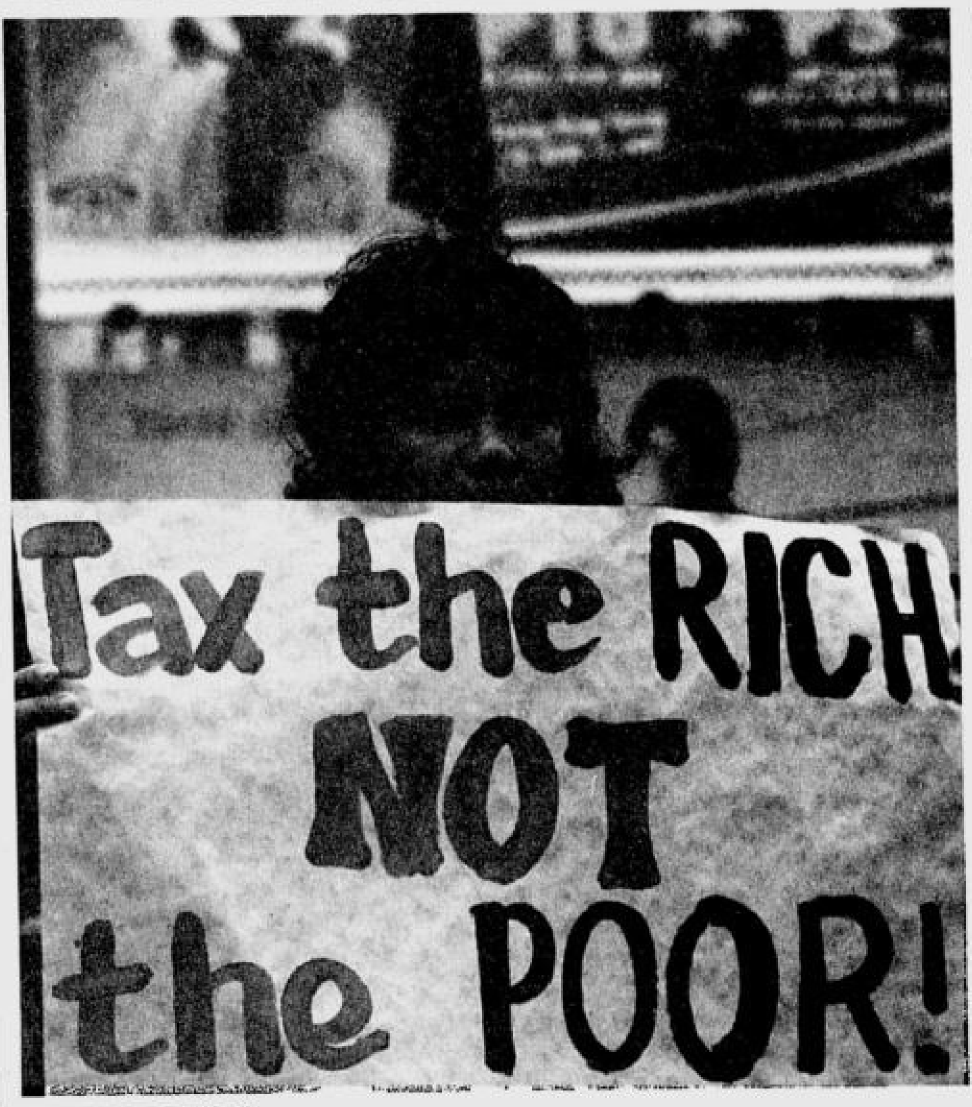
Asis said most of the victims were 25- to 35-year-old single females who were willing to work as domestic helpers or waitresses.

The AHTRAD chief said victims of illegal recruitment were duped because they trusted their "agents," often a close relative or a friend.

"They are also blinded by the lure of overseas employment abroad, where they could earn hundreds of dollars," Asis said.

Asis stressed that applicants should always verify the identities and status of their recruitment agencies with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) before signing any papers with their agents.

Asis also warned the public about the possible proliferation of illegal recruiters with the recent announcement of nursing opportunities in the United States. *With Miko Morelos, trainee*



ONE MORE TIME
A member of a militant urban poor group holds a placard denouncing the implementation of the value-added tax at a rally in front of the Mabuhay Rotunda in Quezon City yesterday.
JOAN BONDOC

Suspected Abu Sayyaf courier to take stand as government witness

By Tarra V. Quismundo

CONFESSED Abu Sayyaf member Gappal Bannah Asali, better known as "Boy Negro," will take the stand tomorrow, but he will be on the side of the prosecution as a state witness.

Acting on the state prosecutor's request, Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 60 Judge Marissa Guillen released an order last week dropping Asali from the roster of men suspected of staging the bombings in Makati, Davao and General Santos cities on Valentine's Day this year.

"The discharge of Asali is necessary so he can testify against the other conspirators and thereby provide evidence of the commission of the crime. For who else outside the conspiracy can testify to what was concocted between the conspirators but they themselves?" Guillen said in her order dated May 18.

Not as guilty

Last month, State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco asked the court to exclude Asali from the list of the accused, citing that the confessed bomb courier "does not appear the most guilty" of the crime, and would prove instrumental in securing the conviction of the other men tagged in the bombing.

"Reckoning then from his limited participation in the actual commission of the crime, in that by supplying the materials for the bomb he cooperated in the furtherance of the crimes that eventually were committed, it can be logically suggested that he is not as guilty as the other accused," said Guillen.

Asali's discharge allows him to be under the protective custody of the government, and free from criminal liability, said Velasco.

He is now in the justice department's witness protection program.

"His culpability has been extinguished. He is a free man. But he must comply with his obligation to testify in court," said Velasco in a phone interview yesterday.

True confession

After surrendering to Camarines Sur local officials on March 4, Asali readily admitted that he was an explosives custodian for the Abu Sayyaf. He later confessed to the justice department how the Makati bombing was planned, along with the terror group's bomb attacks in the cities of Davao and General Santos on the same day.

In Guillen's sala, he also entered a guilty plea to charges of multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder, which had been lodged against him and the others accused in the deadly bombing.

Four people died and at least 60 others were wounded when a bomb the Abu Sayyaf had allegedly planted tore through a passenger bus on Edsa near Ayala Avenue on Feb. 14.

In open court, Asali also confirmed that the other accused in custody, Gamal Baharan alias Tapay, Angelo Trinidad, and Indonesian terror suspect Rohmat Abdurrohim, alias Jackie Zaky were members of the Abu Sayyaf.

He likewise pointed to Abdurrohim as the man who had ordered him to keep the bombs to be used in Metro Manila.

Two others accused in the Valentine's bombing incidents, Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Jainal Sali alias Abu Solaiman, and the group's leader, Khaddafy Janjalani, are still at large.

Foundation fighting uphill battle for park

By Tina G. Santos

THERE is no stopping Manila from constructing a building at the contested Arroceros Forest Park, now named "People's Botanical Garden."

Mayor Lito Atienza said construction was pushing through even as members of Winner Foundation, the group taking care of the 2.1-hectare forest park, protested the presence of workers inside the property.

Foundation president Regina Paterno said workers had begun digging at the site on Saturday.

Procedures hit

"From the looks of it, they are just hurting the trees," Paterno said. "They do not know the procedure for balling trees. I wonder if they even know what balling means."

The Manila court recently denied Winner's petition for a temporary restraining order (TRO) on the construction of a building in the park.

"The court denied our TRO but until the case is resolved, the city government could not continue their work there. We still have jurisdiction over the property," Paterno insisted.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the city government signed on Nov. 19, 1993, named the foundation as the official caretaker of the park.

However, Atienza advised Winner to consult its lawyer.

"I understand the court denied their petition as it saw no merit in restraining us from continuing our plan to improve the site," the mayor said.

Local police directors to act as prosecutors in crime cases

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A POLICE Chief's Guide to Prosecuting.

That may be a fitting title to a handbook being drafted by the National Police Commission (Napolcom) as it paves the way for local police chiefs to prosecute crime suspects.

Aiming to deliver speedy justice in far-flung areas, the Napolcom approved the drafting of guidelines that police chiefs could use in case a prosecution lawyer is not available.

"The Napolcom created a committee composed of members of the prosecution panel and representatives from the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Department of Justice (DOJ) to formulate the handbook," said Napolcom Vice Chair and Executive Officer Imelda Roces in a statement.

Roces said Napolcom's think tank, the Technical Committee on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, updated the agency on the progress of its police chiefs-to-prosecutors project. The committee held its plenary and organizational meeting on May 10.

Napolcom said the handbook would serve as the police chief's guide to prosecuting a criminal case, a task that the justice department has given top local police officers. The handbook is expected to be completed between July and September.

In August 2002, the Department of Justice issued Memorandum Circular No. 40 authorizing heads of Philippine National Police stations in remote localities to act as trial prosecutors for criminal cases in situations where a public prosecutor is absent.

The Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure allows chiefs of police or their representatives to "prosecute criminal actions in municipalities where the public prosecutor has a heavy work schedule, or in localities where there are no public prosecutors."

However, such authority should come with written authorization from the regional, provincial or city prosecutor.

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ERRATUM

The following should appear on Page D6 of today's Children's Hour Supplement

Today is marked with joy for the following fifteen projects as Children's Hour awards them with grants to further help their many causes:

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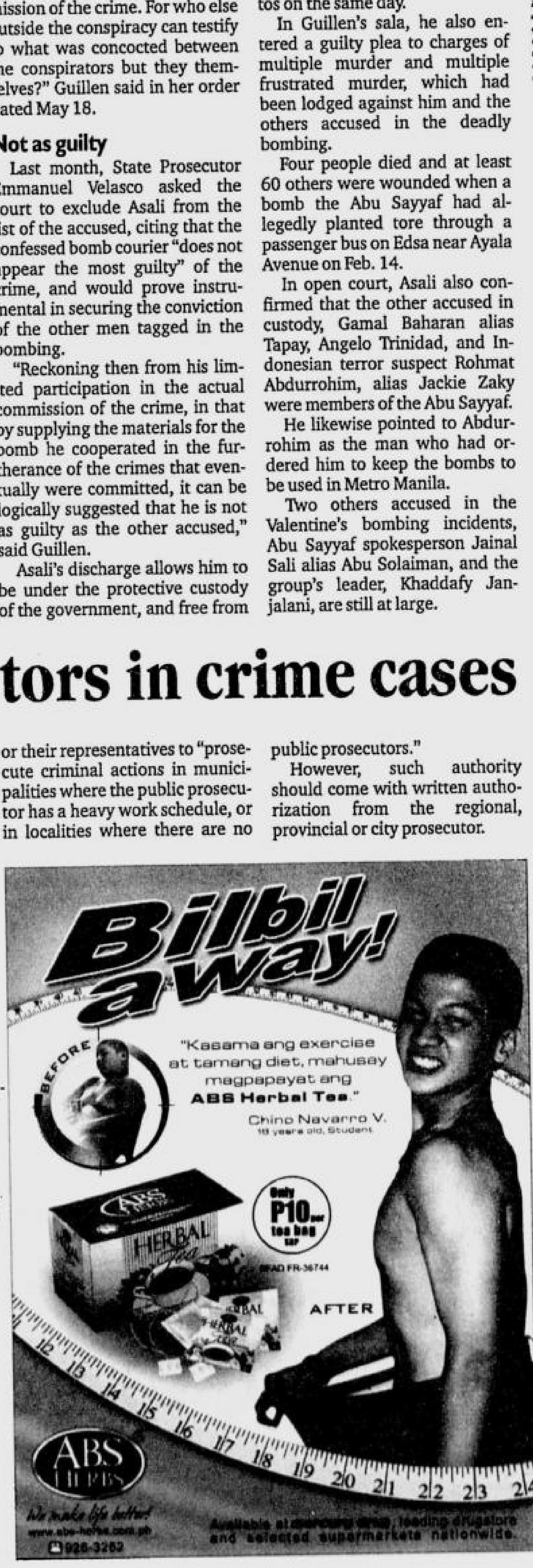
- St. Lawrence Academy Foundation

VISAYAS
- International Deaf Education Association
- Mangyan Mission
- Missionaries of the Poor, Inc.

MINDANAO
- ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.
- AFP Educational Benefit System Office
- Cartwheel Foundation
- Integral Development Services Philippines, Inc.
- Knowledge Channel Foundation, Inc.
- Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women



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Government exec gets death threats

By DJ Yap

A MALACAÑANG official has reported receiving death threats, including a close call with gun-toting assailants last week.

Claro Fernandez, deputy director for communications, told Quezon City police that he had received death threats over his office and home phones.

In one incident, a man reportedly said: "(Expletive), Usec. *Bilang na ang araw mo. Ipapapatay kita* (Your days are numbered. I will have you killed)."

Commonwealth encounter

Fernandez, 42, who holds an undersecretary position, said that at first he ignored the threats, thinking they were pranks. But on May 20, he said he had an encounter with armed men on his way home to Fairview.

He said that at about 9 p.m., he was in the middle of traffic while driving his Nissan Safari along Commonwealth Avenue when the occupants of a Toyota Tamaraw FX opened their windows and pointed a gun to his face.

One of the men shouted: "*Patay ka, Usec* (You're dead)," prompting him to speed off, Fernandez said.

He put the incident on record in the blotter of the Criminal Investigation Division at Camp Karingal.

No given motives

Fernandez did not tell police any possible motives for the threats.

The INQUIRER called up Fernandez's office yesterday, but a secretary said he was on leave.

Upon the INQUIRER's request, the secretary tried to contact the undersecretary but she said she could not reach him.

The secretary could not confirm if her boss had been getting death threats.

Argument leads to big fire in Pasig

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WHAT began as a brawl between friends led to an hourlong fire that razed more than 20 houses in a densely populated community in Pasig City early yesterday morning.

A 68-year-old man who collapsed due to suffocation was brought to the hospital, investigators said.

The fire began at 2:13 a.m. at the upper floor of a house occupied by Arnold Magtibay, 27, in Rosario Village, Barangay Sta. Lucia, said Roberto Samillano, city chief fire investigator.

Midnight chase

According to neighbors, they saw Michael Montilla, 22, running after Magtibay before midnight Monday.

Montilla and Magtibay were close friends who apparently had a misunderstanding, said FO1 Salvador Norberte.

During the chase, Magtibay ran into his rented room on Tramo Street.

Furious, Montilla threatened to burn the house, Norberte said, quoting witnesses.

Hours later, neighbors saw thick smoke coming from the house.

Some also told investigators they saw Montilla and a certain Toto Rivera running from the burning house.

Residents in panic

The fire sent residents fleeing in panic and later watching helplessly as flames gobbled up their homes.

The blaze reached the fifth alarm status at 2:45 a.m. but was put out at 3:34 a.m.

Neighbors told probers that Montilla had been frequenting the house he allegedly burned.

During interrogation, Montilla admitted figuring in a brawl with Magtibay.

Norberte said Magtibay refused to comment whether or not he started the fire.

Apart from neighbor's claims, investigators had no evidence as yet that the blaze was a case of arson. They were still trying to determine its cause.

Samillano said more than P300,000 worth of property was destroyed.

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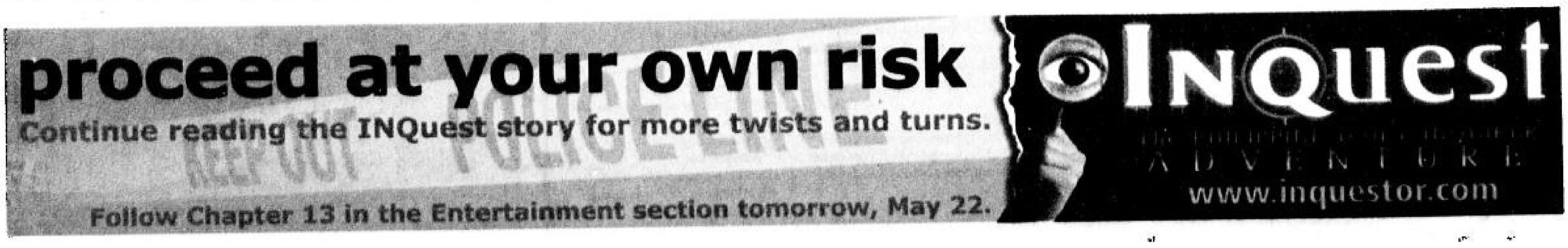

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Olympic body tipped to give BAP the boot

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee (POC) general assembly is expected to back Jose "Peping" Cojuangco's recommendation to suspend the basketball association when it convenes today.

A POC source, who spoke on the condition that he not be identified, yesterday told the Inquirer that Cojuangco, the POC president, has already garnered the numbers necessary to put in effect the recommended indefinite suspension of the cage body.

The unprecedented event will gather the heads and officers of all 39 National Sports Associations and will take place in Cojuangco's residence in Dasmariñas Village at around lunchtime.

Cojuangco, according to the source, already has the required 26 votes from the member National Sports Associations, making the meeting today a mere formality.

"Mr. Cojuangco wants a unanimous vote, if possible," said the source.

Also to be deliberated upon is the matter on who will carry out the functions of the BAP, which is being suspended when it could not keep its word on fundamental agreements forged during two cage summits last month.

To be present are presidents, chairmen and secretary-generals of all the NSAs.

Curiously, the presence of Bureau of Immigration secretary Al Fernandez in the GA can provide for an interesting sidelight, for he could run face-to-face with BAP sec-gen Graham Lim.

Fernandez will represent the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association,

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Paintmasters gain outright semis berth

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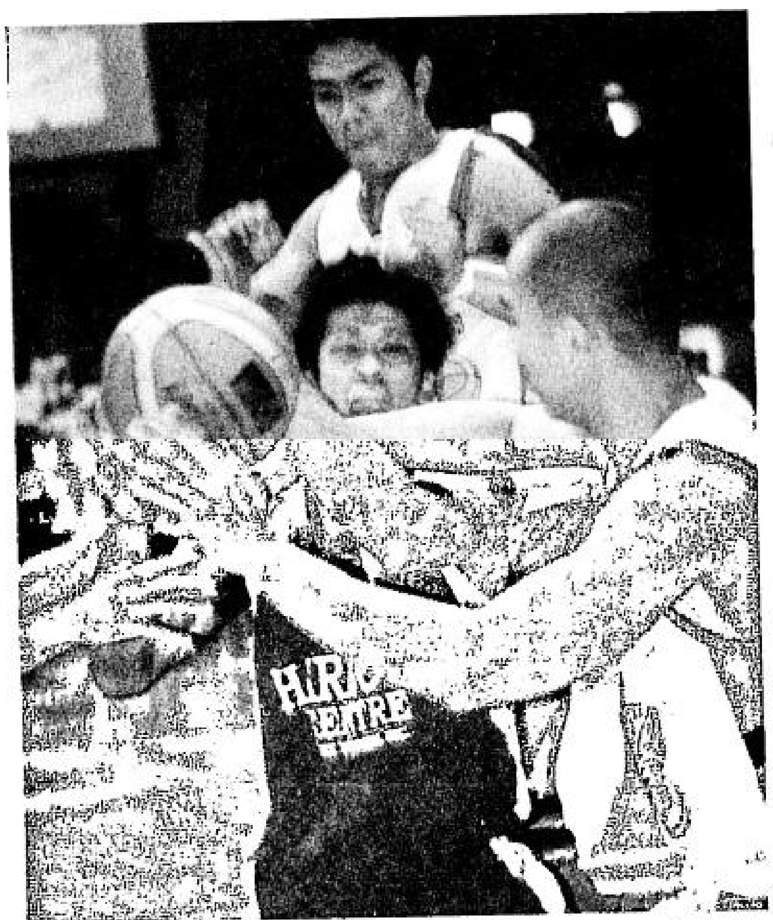


LEO Najorda (top) and Allan Gamboa of Welcoat gang up on Gerwin Gaco of Harbour Centre during the game last night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Jasmine W. Payo

JOJO Tangkay showed audacity in overtime as Welcoat Paints withstood the gutsy plays of Harbour Centre, 92-87, to claim the second outright semifinal berth in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Pasig Sports Center.

Playing only his third game this conference, Tangkay scored Welcoat's last five points to finish with a team-high 23 markers.

"It was Jojo's show," said Welcoat coach Caloy Garcia of Tangkay, who was sidelined for six months due to an ACL injury. "We started strong then struggled in the next three quarters. But Tangkay really played well."

Fil-Am Anthony Washington delivered another double-double performance with 14 points and 10 rebounds for Welcoat.

Although Harbour Centre will take the longer route in the quarterfinals, it only needs to win once over Granny Goose to join top-seed Montaña Pawnshop and Welcoat in the Final Four.

Magnolia Ice Cream will also have the twice-to-beat advantage over Toyota Otis-Letran in the other quarterfinal pairing, after the Wizards slipped past the Knights, 81-76, in their own playoff match.

The defending champions continued to get back on track with new Fil-Am recruit Kelly Williams, who shot a game-high 24 points.

Arwind Santos also proved unstoppable with 18 points, 15 rebounds and four blocks.

Harbour Centre took an 85-82 lead as Welcoat struggled offensively in the extra period. But a Tangkay three-pointer in the final two minutes tied the game at 85.

GAMES TOMORROW (*JCSGO Gym*)
2 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Magnolia vs Toyota Otis

Unlike the Portmasters who could not convert their free throws, Welcoat knocked in three of their next four charities for an 88-87 advantage, 41.8 seconds remaining.

Another Tangkay triple in the last 28.6 ticks lifted Welcoat, 91-87.

Harbour Centre seemed headed for the win in regulation after Mac Cardona buried a jumper, 79-77, but a Washington putback forged overtime, 79-79.

The scores:

First Game

MAGNOLIA 81—Williams 24, Santos 18, Calli 15, Miranda 6, Isip 6, Rizada 5, Misolas 3, Rañeses 2, Co 2, Jones 0, Chan 0.

TOYOTA OTIS 76—Enrile 15, Capati 13, Macapagal 9, Coronel 8, Alcaraz 7, Oreta 7, Daa 6, Andaya 4, Larong 3, Rodriguez 2, Alonzo 2, Piñera 0, Aban 0.

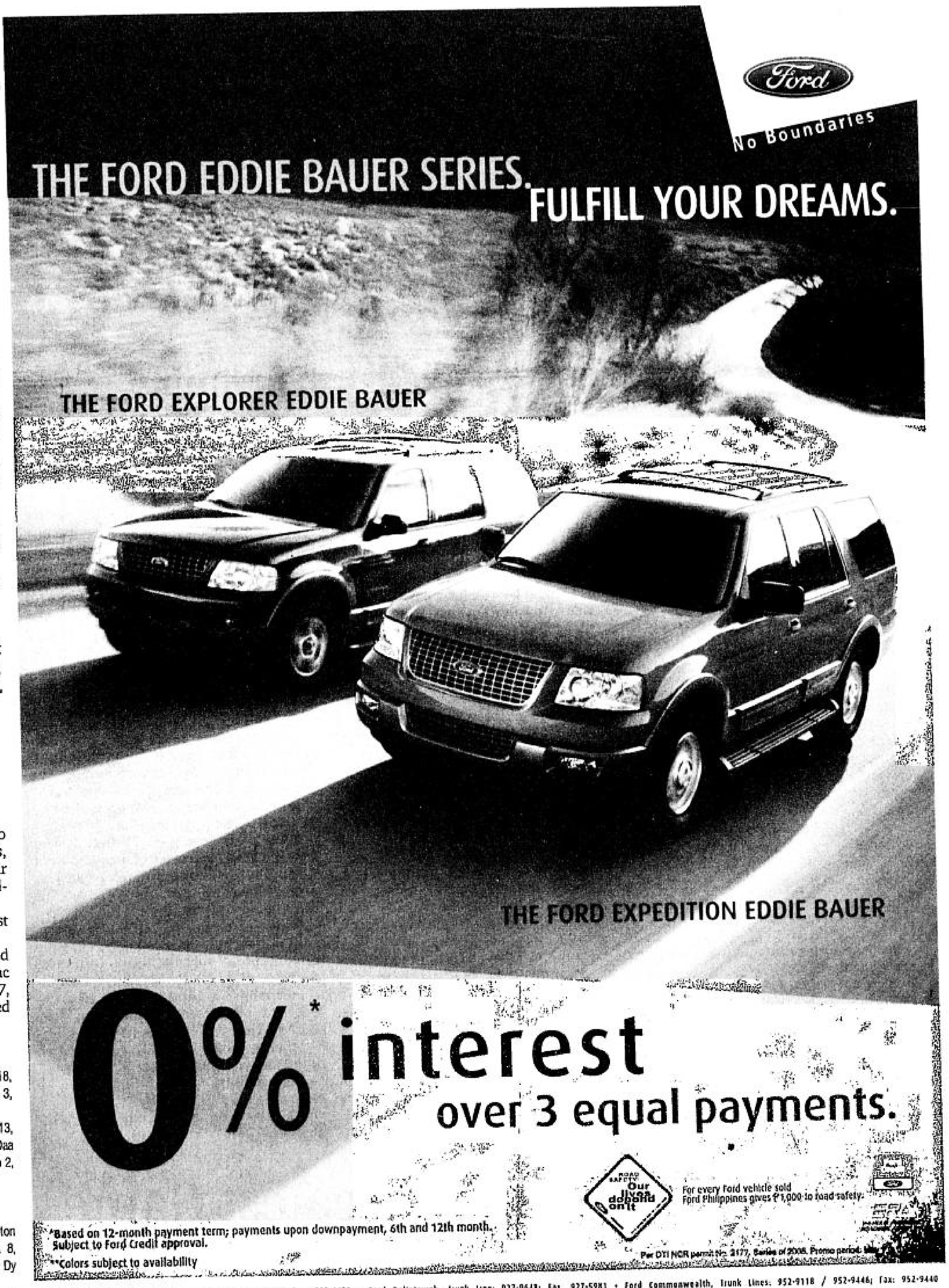
Quarters: 26-20, 42-42, 65-60, 81-76

Second Game

WELCOAT 92—Tangkay 23, Washington 14, Sta. Maria 14, Najorda 10, Gamboa 8, Coching 7, Tan 7, Ortiguerra 6, Guevarra 2, Dy 1, Reyes 0.

HARBOUR CENTRE 87—Cardona 32, Mesina 15, Espinas 10, Tenorio 7, Membrere 6, Gaco 6, Mendoza 6, Bugia 5, Gatumbato 0, Sanz 0, Luanzon 0.

Quarters: 25-18, 38-39, 56-60, 79-79, 92-87 (OT)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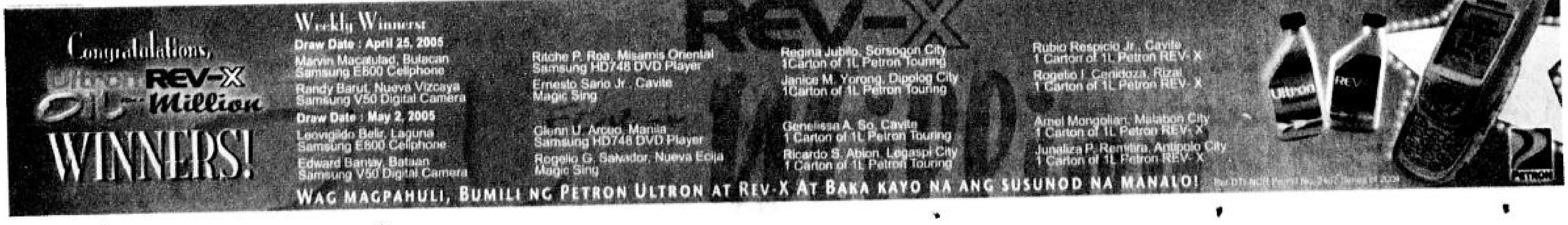
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Edward Bantay, Bataan Samsung V50 Digital Camera
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FedEx not taking Ginebra lightly

STANDINGS	W	L
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Alaska	10	7
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SM Beer	9	7
FedEx	9	7
Red Bull	9	8
Ginebra	7	9
Purefoods	7	10
Shell	7	10
Coca-Cola	5	12

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:45 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs FedEx
7:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel Beer

IT'S A wornout adage, but FedEx coach Bong Ramos knows the wisdom of keeping it to heart: Don't ever underestimate the heart of a champion.

Especially this champion.

The Express will go up against a slumping Barangay Ginebra still trying to cope with serious manpower woes in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Although they're losing, you cannot take them for granted," said Ramos. "Remember, they (Kings) are the defending champions."

More than having won the last two championships in the league, the Kings have also been known for the way they will themselves out of adversity.

But adversity does not get any worse than this for Barangay Ginebra.

Coach Siot Tanquingcen and the Kings have lost three of their last five games and seven of 10 and will be handicapped by the continued suspension of frontliner Eric Menk, the most valuable player the past two conferences.

The hardworking Menk still has to complete his citizenship documents.

Ramos, though, is not expected to factor Menk's absence into the Express' preparation.

"We've been working hard in our previous games and the preparation for this one will be no different from the rest," said Ramos, whose Express are tied for third with San Miguel Beer at 9-7.

Wesley Gonzales, Renren Ritualo and Anthony Miller have been a potent offensive brew after engineering FedEx's last two victories, the most recent of which was an overtime escape act over the back-to-the-wall Coca-Cola Tigers.

Red Bull pulled off the same feat over the Kings in a recent out-of-town sortie, a victory they hope to duplicate against the San Miguel Beermen in the other game.

The second hottest team in the league after the Express, the Barako are looking to extend their winning run to four games as they wrap up the classification round of the eliminations.

The Barako carry a 9-8 record.

Throwing a defensive blanket on the Express' gunners could bail them out, but the Kings will also have to fix a weakness that has been plaguing the defending champions in recent days.

The usually unflinching Kings have become brittle in the endgame, their resolve strikingly in contrast with the team that took last year's Fiesta Conference and this year's Philippine Cup.

Andre Brown has been on and off, infectious even to the most consistent player on the Ginebra lineup. Mark Caguioa, Sunday Salvacion and Aris Dimaunahan have also failed to impress.

As a result, the Kings (7-9) are now in danger of finishing No. 9 or 10. If this happens, the Kings will need to beat their wildcard phase opponent twice before advancing to the quarterfinals.

June Navarro

CLUB CHAMPS' TILT

Papa, Godio lead sets of qualifiers

MATCHES TODAY

Men—7 a.m.: J. Papa vs. M. Ozaeta; 7:10: J. Lerma vs. M. Ilagan; 7:20: Oh KT vs. R. Amata; 7:30: R. Mangulabnan vs. K. Tayao; 7:40: I. Clavecilla vs. A. Mauricio; 7:50: R. Sangil vs. J. Quimson, 8:00: A. Avena vs. L. Garcia; 8:10 L. Oh vs. O. Gan. **Ladies**—8:20 a.m.: V. Godio vs. L. Tabuena; 8:30: S. Cebrero vs. L. Farrales; 8:40: K. Gonzales vs. M. Neri; 8:50: K. Uy vs. M. Yaptangco.

GEN. TRIAS, Cavite—Playing the course for the very first time, John Papa overcame the tricky greens with a three-over-par 75 yesterday and emerged the top qualifier in the men's division even as Vinice Godio upstaged her young rivals in ladies play in the inaugural National Tournament of Club Champions at the Faldo course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club here.

Papa, a well-built, long-hitter representing The Country Club, got the directions he needed from his caddie on a course which allowed him little use of his driver.

He towed 15 other qualifiers into today's match play stage.

Alabang bet Iggy Clavecilla, one of the early favorites in the unprecedented tournament, likewise secured his spot in the match play with a hard-earned 77, the same score submitted by dark horse Abe Avena of Mount Malarayat.

Raymund Sangil of Riviera was a big letdown after an 81 but still emerged as the seventh seed while Mike Ozaeta of Wack Wack grabbed the last slot despite an 86 to get a shot at Papa.

Godio of Alabang was the only entry in ladies' play to break 80, carding a 79 to deny jungolfer Kathleen Uy of Cebu Country Club and Katrina Gonzales of Riviera the No. 1 seeding in the tourney presented by INQUIRER Golf and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC) in coordination with the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines.

Lorna Tabuena, mother of jungolf sensation Miguel, shot an 89 and took the eighth and last ticket in the ladies division via a countback.

Warner Manning, president and CEO of HSBC, hits the ceremonial drive.

She will face Godio in today's quarterfinals at the Aoki course of the country's biggest golf complex.

Completing the qualifiers in the ladies division are Samantha Cebrero of Orchard, Leana Farrales of Wack Wack, Len Yaptangco of Tagaytay Midlands and May Neri of Manila Golf.

Omega watches and Toyota Innova, the event's official vehicle, are the other major sponsors of the country's first ever showdown of club champions.

The other backers are Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Printown, GG&A Club Shares, Mizuno, Titleist as the official ball, Aviva Insurance, Nike Golf, Ayala Greenfield Estates, Coppertone Sport and Sunbolt Sports Drink.

The scores:

Men—75 J. Papa, 77 I. Clavecilla, A. Avena, 78 Oh KT, 79 R. Mangulabnan, Luis Oh, 81 R. Sangil, J. Lerma, 82 M. Ilagan, J. Quimson, 83 O. Gan, 84 K. Tayao, R. Amata, 84 L. Garcia, 85 A. Mauricio, 86 M. Ozaeta

Ladies: 79 V. Godio, 81 K. Gonzales, 81 K. Uy, 81 S. Cebrero, 84 L. Farrales, 86 M. Yaptangco, 87 M. Neri, 89 L. Tabuena, N. Patricio, T. Staub.

STEADY on Eagle Ridge's riddle of greens, John Papa of The Country Club tows 15 other qualifiers into today's play. ROMY HOMILLADA

Manny Pacquiao could crash in limbo

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HIS ring record shows Manny Pacquiao has been knocked out only twice, in the Philippines and in Thailand.

But the latest twist in his legal tussle against US promoter Murad Muhammad could lead to a more crippling case for Pacquiao.

Murad, armed with an impending injunction, has vowed to prevent Pacquiao from fighting anywhere in the United States.

Murad made the move after Pacquiao's new handlers announced the GenSan sensation would next be fighting an Australian IBF super featherweight champ in the US in September.

That's quite alarming, and one guy truly bothered by the Murad threat was boxing guru Hermie Rivera.

"Searched the mighty high and low for court injunction forbidding Pacquiao to fight in the US without Murad's clearance, to no avail," said Hermie.

Hermie begged our boxing reporter, Salven Lagumbay, where he got "this non-existent ruling for the peace of mind of Pacquiao's vast following."

No formal injunction yet against Pacquiao, explained Salven L., a self-confessed Hermie Rivera admirer.

"My source said, as soon as a US fight is set for Pacquiao, Murad would automatically file an injuction," Salven said.

***

Well, the boxing community is divided on the injunction issue.

There are those who said Murad has the right connections, while others said Pacquiao cannot be touched by Murad, who has a live two-fight contract with Pacquiao.

For his part, Pacquiao yesterday advised fans not to worry.

"He's confident an injunction won't totally stop him from fighting in the US," said Lagumbay. "Maybe only a portion of his purse would be withheld, just like in the Bernard Hopkins-Don King Case."

At the same time, Lagumbay said he got it from informed sources that an injunction against Pacquiao has already been readied.

***

Now, let's leave the case at that and hear some cool boxing prose from the pen of Hermie Rivera, to help relieve us from the choking heat wave. Take it away, sir:

"The irony of the Information Age is that it has given new respectability to uninformed opinion," this according to veteran reporter John Lawton before the Association of Broadcast Journalists in Las Vegas, 1995.

Never has this claim been made more pronounced than the time Erik Morales gave Manny Pacquiao a thorough drubbing to ensnare bragging rights as junior lightweight "boss of bosses."

However, as is the wont of some cockalorum boxing pundits, their obsequious view is that Morales didn't win the bitterly fought match if he did not butt Pacquiao, used ill-stuffed gloves, before the RP sensation was subjected to outrageous medical demands by the Nevada Athletic Commission—not to mention the bizarre torment caused by his wicked entourage.

OK, let's leave it at that for now until a panel of acceptable experts emerge to resolve this nagging fistic imbroglio.

For now, Erik "the terrible" Mexican remains the king in that crowded division once ruled mightily by our own Gabriel "Flash" Elorde.

Now, we move to a messier area where we see Manny challenging assertions made by his ex-promoter Murad Muhammad and former business manager Rod Nazario that his tax woes in the United States among other problems are a thing of the past—a claim called quickly by Pacquiao's lawyers as out of whack.

That will leave us guessing though on the decision of this multi-faceted complaint filed by the GenSan ring sensation which includes the charge of estafa covering six fights dating from the time he grabbed the IBF super-bantamweight crown from Lehlo Ledwaba.

***

Closer to home, there is this long dormant case filed against the promoters of Luisito Espinosa who successfully defended his WBC featherweight title against Argentine Carlos Rios but remains unresolved by Manila RTC Judge Rosario Cruz.

Many years have gone by since Luisito knocked the daylights out of Rios who went home fully compensated despite a badly rearranged facial feature which I'm sure his Mom found "unrecognizeable."

Louie's father Deo, in fact, has sent an urgent plea for assistance to no less than the Chief Justice of the land, Hilario Davide Jr., for recovery of (you guessed it) stolen income from his World Boxing Council featherweight title match promoted by Rod Nazario, Larry de Pedro and Lito Mondejar.

When will these frightful ordeals of our ring icons end? Just asking.

Hermie Rivera

P.S. (the resumption of Louie's trial is on the 31st.)

Aussie girls trip Filipina tossers in straight sets

AUSTRALIA played just good enough to scuttle an erratic Philippine side, 25-21, 25-17, 25-14, yesterday and serve notice of its title bid in the Asian Youth Girls Championship which got under way at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex.

Save for a shaky first round, the Aussies had little trouble in subduing a raw local squad that was formed only six weeks ago.

"*Hindi sanay sa mahigpit na laban,* international *na ito eh, kaya bumaba ang* intensity *pagkatapos ng* first set (They are not used to this kind of competition and their inexperience showed when they lost intensity after the first set)," RP team coach Sammy Acaylar said of his wards.

In contrast, the Aussies came into the event, which serves as a qualifier for the Under-18 World Championships slated July 23-31 in Macau, China, oozing with confidence. They have played as a team for over two years.

With skipper Bangladesh Pantaleon on the firing end, the Filipinas found themselves on top, 9-6, only to reel back in the face of the Aussies' smashing fightback behind the power-hitting Rachel Rourke.

"The girls gave their best in the first set," Acaylar said.

The momentum on their side, the Aussies then unleashed one kill after another and surged to leads of 8-0 and 19-10 in the second set as the Filipinas lapsed into numerous service errors.

The RP girls play the powerhouse Japanese tomorrow.

Meanwhile, India was still playing India and Thailand was set to play China at presstime.

Special rules for PBA Greatest Game

THE "TM Astig! PBA Greatest Game," the only featured match in the 30th year anniversary celebration of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), promises to be an event like no other.

As a way of stressing the significance of the affair, the league is adopting special rules and regulations designed for the May 28 encounter—powered by TM, ang bagong Touch Mobile ng bayan—at the Araneta Coliseum.

The game will still be played under in four quarters of 12 minutes each, although the first two minutes of each period will be a running time. Players are also given 10 seconds to cross the half court, instead of eight, and both zone defense and hand checks are allowed.

The occasion will pit the league's 25 greatest players—split into two teams, TM Greats Hataw and TM Legends LAban—in a once in a lifetime experience.

The indefatigable Robert Jaworski has been tasked to handle the TM Greats Hataw.

Legendary coach Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan, meanwhile, calls the shots for the TM Legends Laban.

Olympic body . . .

From page A23

where he is chairman, while its president, Go Teng Kok, will cast the vote of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, which he also heads.

Lim has been ordered deported by the Department of Justice and the only agency keeping him here in the country is the BI, the executing body where Lim filed an appeal.

Meanwhile, the same source also confirmed that Boni Alentajan, the BAP legal counsel and spokesman, paid Cojuangco a visit last week to deny published reports that he called the former Tarlac Congressman "power mad."

Alentajan went to Cojuangco's home in the company of Ilocos Sur Governor (?) Chavit Singson to deny the story even if he was directly quoted by a tabloid reporter.

After the meeting and when the suspension is formalized, the officers of the BAP will be barred from occupying their offices at the Rizal Memorial Complex and a caretaker committee will reportedly perform the association's functions.

This marks the first time that an NSA is being sanctioned this severely by the POC.

The BAP, which Cojuangco said was serving "self-interest based leadership," continues to deny that it turned its back on basic agreements with the POC basketball committee forged in two meetings last month.

INQBOX
Question of the Week
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TAKE FIVE: Commissioner Chino Trinidad gets together with a quintet of the Philippine Basketball League's most bankable stars, (from left) Welcoat Paint's Anthony Washington, Montaña Pawnshop's Jondan Salvador, Magnolia Dairy Ice Cream's Arwind Santos, Granny Goose Kornets' JR Quiñahan and Harbour Centre's Mark Cardona prior to a league exhibition game recently. Molten is PBL's official ball.

Pagulayan eyes 2nd title in row

ALEX Pagulayan wants to add a championship in his adopted home to a victorious campaign in his native land.

PAGULAYAN

Fresh off his triumph in the Canadian Open, Pagulayan arrived two Sundays ago to give himself ample time to prepare for the Hope P1-Million All-Filipino Billiards Open set May 26-29 at the LS-2 Studio of IBC-13.

"A bigger title is at stake here," said the reigning world pool champ in Filipino. "I was expected to win in Canada, but anybody can win here."

He came close to winning the inaugural staging of the double elimination event, leading by as many as seven racks in the final against Francisco "Django" Bustamante. But he scratched thrice and Bustamante served three aces to highlight a remarkable comeback.

Pagulayan, however, is not the only one eyeing redemption in the tournament sanctioned by the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) and organized by Puyat Sports and Jemah Television.

PAGULAYAN/ A28

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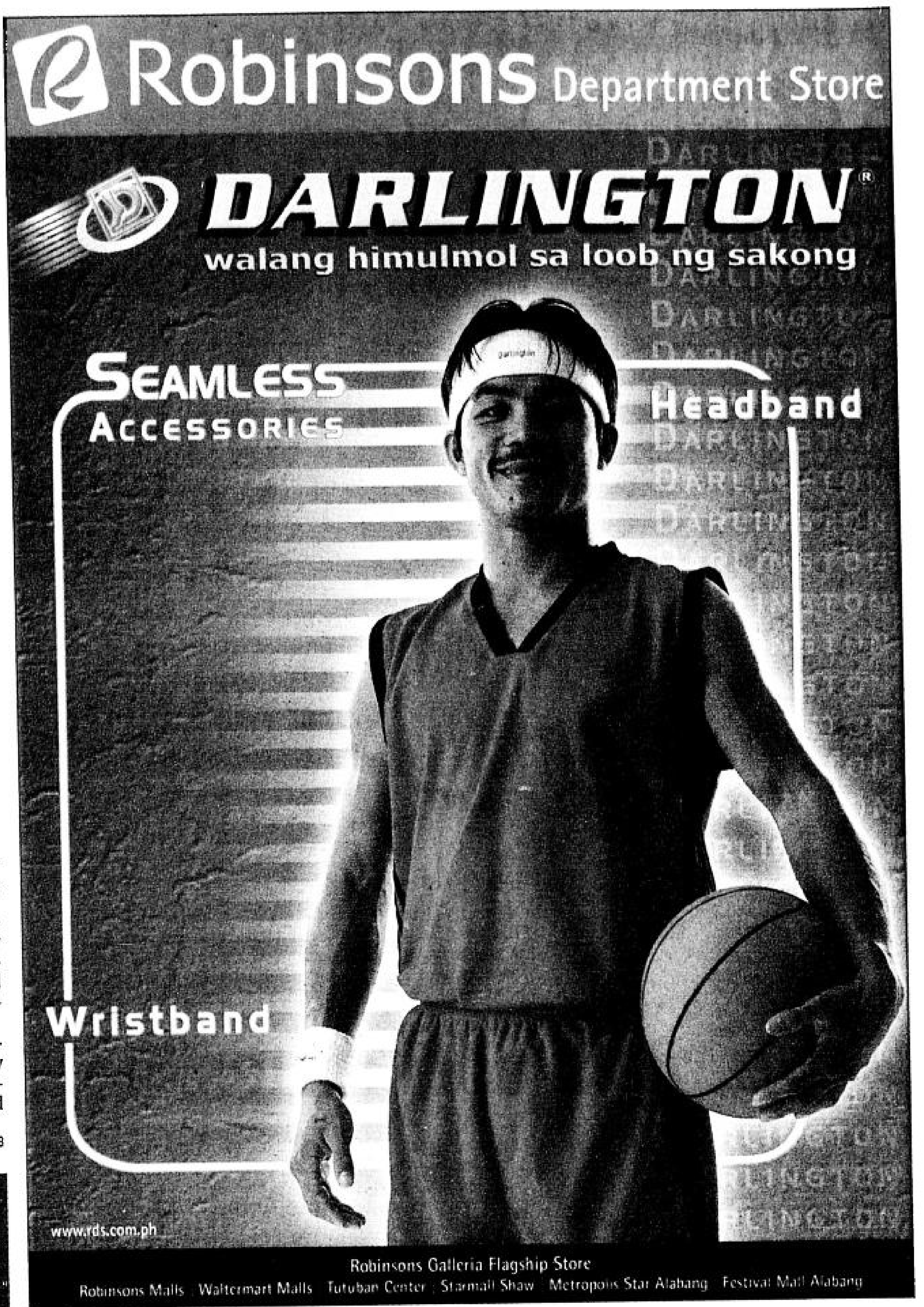

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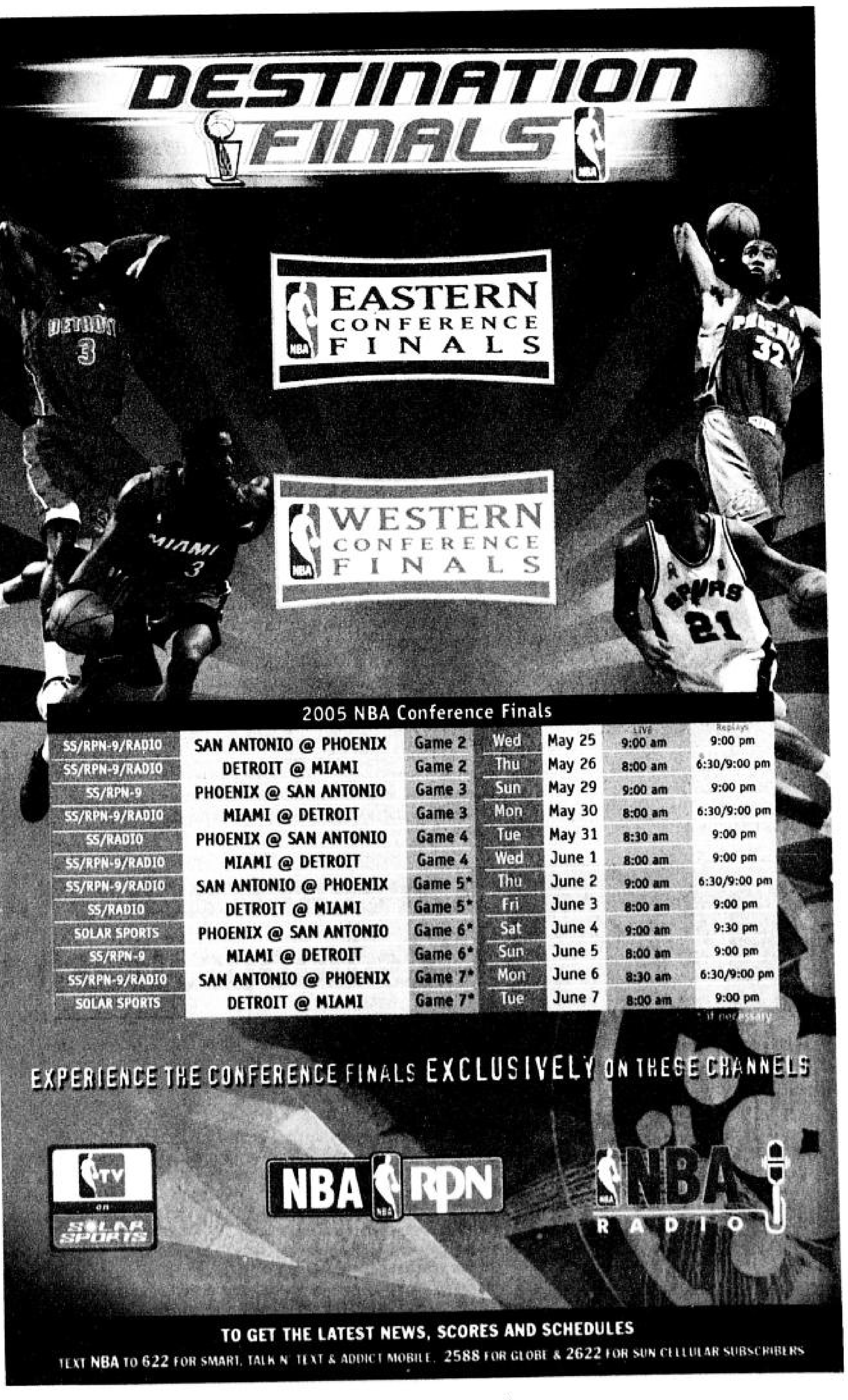

DESTINATION FINALS
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WESTERN CONFERENCE FINALS

2005 NBA Conference Finals

					Live	Replays
SS/RPN-9/RADIO	SAN ANTONIO @ PHOENIX	Game 2	Wed	May 25	9:00 am	9:00 pm
SS/RPN-9/RADIO	DETROIT @ MIAMI	Game 2	Thu	May 26	8:00 am	6:30/9:00 pm
SS/RPN-9	PHOENIX @ SAN ANTONIO	Game 3	Sun	May 29	9:00 am	9:00 pm
SS/RPN-9/RADIO	MIAMI @ DETROIT	Game 3	Mon	May 30	8:00 am	6:30/9:00 pm
SS/RADIO	PHOENIX @ SAN ANTONIO	Game 4	Tue	May 31	8:30 am	9:00 pm
SS/RPN-9/RADIO	MIAMI @ DETROIT	Game 4	Wed	June 1	8:00 am	9:00 pm
SS/RPN-9/RADIO	SAN ANTONIO @ PHOENIX	Game 5*	Thu	June 2	9:00 am	6:30/9:00 pm
SS/RADIO	DETROIT @ MIAMI	Game 5*	Fri	June 3	8:00 am	9:00 pm
SOLAR SPORTS	PHOENIX @ SAN ANTONIO	Game 6*	Sat	June 4	9:00 am	9:30 pm
SS/RPN-9	MIAMI @ DETROIT	Game 6*	Sun	June 5	8:00 am	9:00 pm
SS/RPN-9/RADIO	SAN ANTONIO @ PHOENIX	Game 7*	Mon	June 6	8:30 am	6:30/9:00 pm
SOLAR SPORTS	DETROIT @ MIAMI	Game 7*	Tue	June 7	8:00 am	9:00 pm

* if necessary

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After writing French history, Myskina makes historic exit

MYSKINA: I just have no medicine AP

PARIS—The first Russian woman to win a grand slam crown, Anastasia Myskina on Monday became the first French Open champion to lose in the opening round when doughty Spaniard Maria Sanchez Lorenzo fashioned out a 6-4, 4-6, 6-0, upset at center court.

Where 12 months ago the elfin Myskina had triumphed in glorious Parisian sunshine, her brief defense fell to pieces as storm clouds gathered overhead.

Drained by concerns over her mother's health, the Russian's heart simply was not in it and despite mustering a modicum of resistance in the second set, she handed her 109th-ranked opponent the match with her 69th unforced error.

Since the tournament opened up to international competitors in 1925, only twice had competing champions failed to reach the second round. But neither Hungary's Jozsef Asboth in 1948 nor Spain's Manuel Santana in 1965 were beaten—both handed their opponents walkovers.

"Tough times," Myskina said, tears glistening in her eyes.

"It doesn't seem to take much to beat me these days, huh?

"I just have no confidence. I hit the ball and it just goes off the court. I have no explanation."

Focus had not been a problem, though, she added.

"I clearly understood I was losing the match," the 23-year-old smiled sadly.

Sanchez Lorenzo's joy was dampened by sorrow for her opponent.

"People told me about her personal problems," the Spaniard said. "It's not about her game. I think it's about her mind. I feel so sorry for her. I hope she will recover soon."

Myskina's defeat opened up the draw for 11th seed Venus Williams.

The American, who was beaten by younger sister Serena in the 2002 final, had been seeded to meet Myskina in the fourth round and she comfortably beat Spain's Marta Marrero, 6-3 6-2.

"I have big dreams for this tournament, always," the American smiled. "It's all good."

While Myskina's misery deepened, men's champion Gaston Gaudio made a solid start to his defense as he strolled past Julien Benneteau, 7-5, 6-1, 6-0.

Top seed Roger Federer also made it look easy, leaving 264th-ranked Dudi Sela stunned on a battle-scarred center court.

The Swiss world No. 1 crushed the Israeli qualifier, 6-1, 6-4, 6-0, to reach the second round.

"I've prepared well for this," Federer said. "A good win. I am ready to stay here for a while. If I can do well here, if I can win it, it will be great for me."

World No. 1 Lindsay Davenport will also be happy to put her performance behind her, the women's top seed struggling to an unconvincing 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 win over Slovenia's Katarina Srebotnik in her first tournament in four weeks.

"I just wasn't ready to go in that first set," she shrugged.

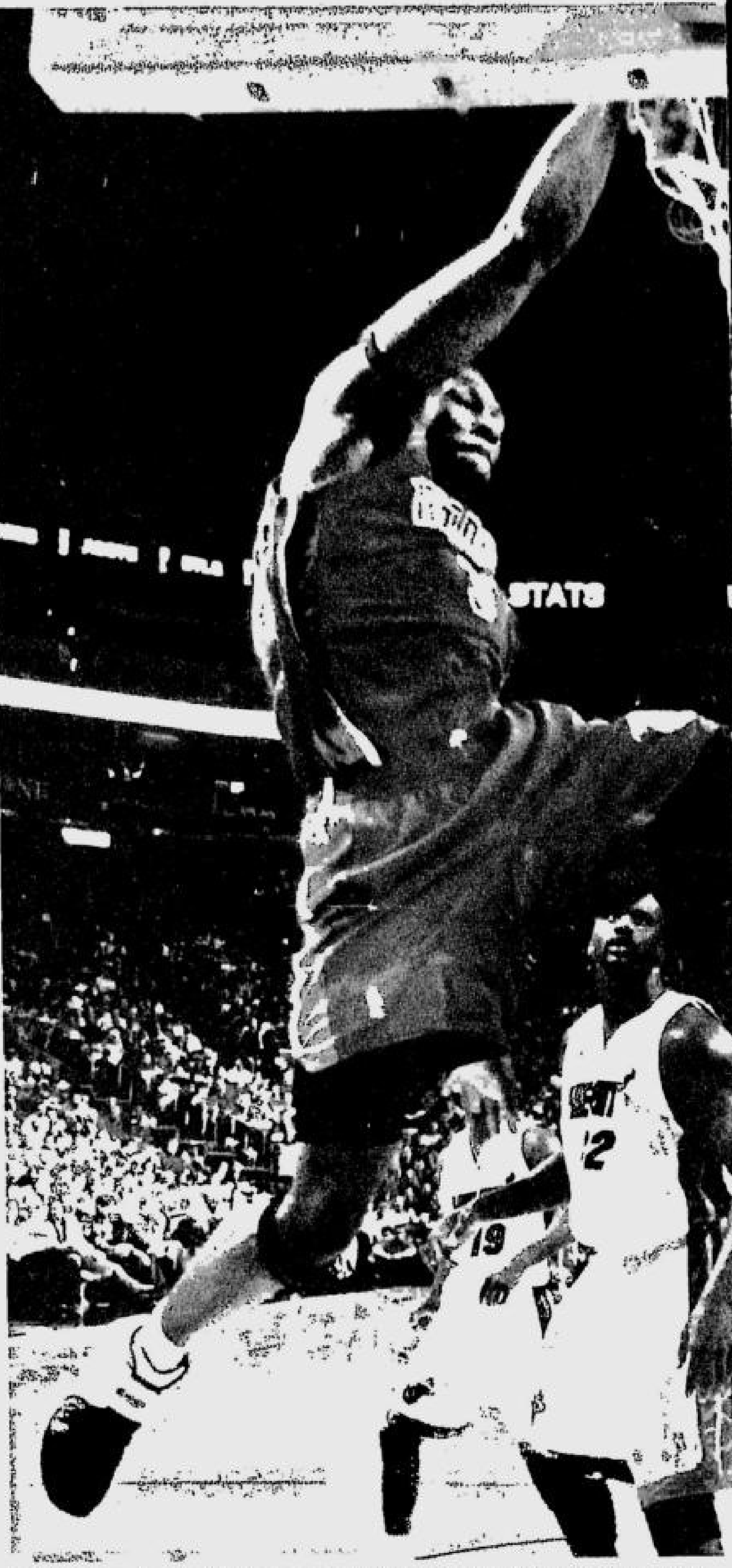
While Federer prepared for Paris by winning the Hamburg Masters, his opposite number in the women's game took a break from training to go on holiday to Mexico.

"I do consider this an important tournament but I also realize it's the most difficult one for me to do well in," she said.

If Davenport can shake off her lethargy, she could face Belgian Kim Clijsters in the fourth round and on Monday's showing, the No. 1 seed would be heading home.

Clijsters, twice French Open runner-up, was in powerful form as she thrashed American qualifier Meilen Tu, 6-1, 6-0.

The Belgian had missed the last four grand slams through injuries, but never looked troubled by a knee problem. *Reuters*



DETROIT center Ben Wallace goes high to dunk against two Miami defenders.

Sharapova continues No. 1 bid

PARIS—When Maria Sharapova last graced the courts of Roland Garros, she was a Russian hopeful with a bright future and a booming forehand.

On Tuesday she will open her 2005 French Open account as the reigning Wimbledon champion closing fast on the world No. 1 spot.

The second seed is a strong favorite to beat unheralded compatriot Evgenia Linetskaya in the first round in Paris but the Florida-based baseliner knows better than to make any predictions.

"I'm not going to tell the future," she said.

"As long as I feel good about the way I'm playing and the way I've been practicing, I think everything will be fine.

"I've progressed in the last two tournaments," said the player who reached the quarterfinals in Berlin and semifinals in Rome.

"I feel better and better about my games. Physically, I can last in longer, tougher matches on the surface, which is important."

Amelie Mauresmo's suspect temperament is sure to be put to the test when she takes on Australia's Evie Dominikovic.

The world No. 3, under pressure to win her national Open, has joined forces with former champion Yannick Noah in a bid to win an elusive grand slam title. *Reuters*

Safin, former titlists reach second round

PARIS—Reigning Australian Open champion Marat Safin advanced to the second round of the French Open on Tuesday along with former champions Justine Henin-Hardenne and Juan Carlos Ferrero.

Safin, the third seed from Russia, won 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 in just under 2 hours against Dutchman Raemon Sluiter and next faces Czech qualifier Lukas Dlouhy for a place in the third round.

The Russian did not have it all his own way against Sluiter, who took the second set, but he admitted that he has high hopes over the next two weeks of winning his second Grand Slam of the season.

"I prefer to be a dark horse. Like that I don't have any expectations and pressure on me," said the 25-year-old former US Open champion.

Safin, who has won titles at the US Open and Australian Open, said pre-tournament that winning at Roland Garros is more important to him than anything else in tennis.

"That's my goal for the whole career. I'm trying, and I will try, try to win it. I always played well there, but for some reason I couldn't," Safin said. "I was missing something extra, you know, to win it."

Safin's love affair with Paris extends beyond the clay courts.

"The whole thing, the whole scene. I mean, like the Paris atmosphere," he said. "The city, people, the courts. The way the people run the tournament, the way the people love this tournament. All these kind of things make it so special."

Henin-Hardenne, the 2003 women's champion, and Ferrero, winner of the men's title the same year, got their campaigns off to winning starts.

It was a confidence-booster for both players who suffered the ignominy of equaling the worst ever records by defending champions when they fell in their second round matches last year.

Henin-Hardenne needed three sets to see off Spanish veteran Conchita Martinez, 6-0, 4-6, 6-4, in 2 hours, 16 minutes, while Ferrero eased past Slovak Karol Beck, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

Beck, seeking his first win in Roland Garros was no match for Ferrero, seeded 32nd, who now faces either France's Fabrice Santoro or Jan Hernych for a place in the third round.

Henin-Hardenne, among the favorites for the Roland Garros title this year after putting her seven-month absence behind her to win three claycourt titles, achieved her seventh win in as many meetings with the 33-year-old former Wimbledon champion Martinez.

The 22-year-old Belgian coasted in the first set but Martinez, competing in her 18th Roland Garros, fought back in the second which lasted just under an hour, helped by six Henin-Hardenne double faults.

Russian sixth seed Svetlana Kuznetsova had an easy 6-1, 6-1 win over French wildcard Mathilde Johansson, and next faces Sweden's Sofia Arvidsson for a place in the third round. *AFP*

Female driver hogs race spotlight

INDIANAPOLIS—But for a split-second wobble in practice, Danica Patrick would most likely have become the first woman to take pole position at the Indy 500.

As it is, the 23-year-old rookie will start Sunday's race in fourth position on the grid—the best starting position by a woman in the classic American event's 89-edition history.

She is only the fourth woman to qualify for the Indy 500 and her predecessors, among many other admirers, believe she can become the first woman to win, despite a lack of experience.

"All the ingredients are in place," said Janet Guthrie, the first female driver to break the all-male barrier at Indianapolis in 1977.

"Danica is the first woman to arrive at the Speedway with top-notch equipment and the full backing of a winning team. And she has the talent and determination to make the most of her opportunity.

"Despite her inexperience at Indianapolis, there's no reason Danica can't win if she gets the right breaks on race day."

Patrick drives a Rahal Letterman Racing Panoz/Honda. The team won the Indy last year with Buddy Rice, who will miss this year's race because of a back injury.

Her car is identical to that of teammate Kenny Brack of Sweden, the 1999 champion who will start 23rd on the grid.

Sunday will be the longest race of Patrick's career and only the fourth time she has raced her car on an oval.

AS IF to remind the men who they're up against, Danica Patrick takes time out for a lipstick retouch during a gathering of competitors for the coming Indianapolis 500. AFP

She posted the fastest lap of any driver this month when she touched 229.880 mph (369.956 kph) in unofficial practice.

Patrick had already attracted attention when she was the fastest driver in the Indianapolis Motor Speedway's rookie orientation programme.

By the end of her qualifying run, on May 15, the media attention had grown to a frenzy.

Patrick made a basic error in the first turn of her four-lap, 10-mile run, calmed down and scorched through the next three laps in her 650-horsepower, open-wheel racer to qualify fourth with 227.004 mph, the best placing for a woman since Lyn St. James qualified sixth in 1994.

Without that first-lap bobble, Patrick could have been the first woman on pole in the race.

"I feel like I wasted a pole car," Patrick said with steely cold eyes staring at the cameras and tape recorders of the media. "But then again, maybe I saved it."

Brazil's Tony Kanaan, in a Dallara-Honda, took pole position with 227.566 mph.

Patrick left home in Roscoe, Illinois, at 16 to race Formula Fords in England. There she was spotted by Bobby Rahal, the 1986 Indy 500 winner and now co-owner of the Rahal Letterman team, during his short tenure as Jaguar's Formula One CEO and team principal.

Since her stunning qualifying run, American television networks have been vying for airtime with her, schoolchildren crowd outside her garage and newspapers, which cover almost exclusively Nascar racing, have been devoting pages to the young driver.

Patrick accepts the attention with aplomb.

"Going fastest and 'could have, should have, would have,' having a pole, is big news. It should be big news for any driver," she said. *Reuters*

ABDUL-JABBAR shows his patented hook. AP

Kareem teaches Chinese kids hoops, trash talking

SHANGHAI, China—Xu Yong, 16 years old and 200 centimeters (six foot, six inches) tall, was born the year NBA great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar retired, on the other side of the world, in a country where basketball had made little impact on society.

On Tuesday, Xu was in class with the NBA great, learning aspects of the American game as a long leg-up toward his own NBA dreams.

"I know he's a real star, a great player sort of from the earlier generation," said Xu. "I'm not nervous having him watch me, though."

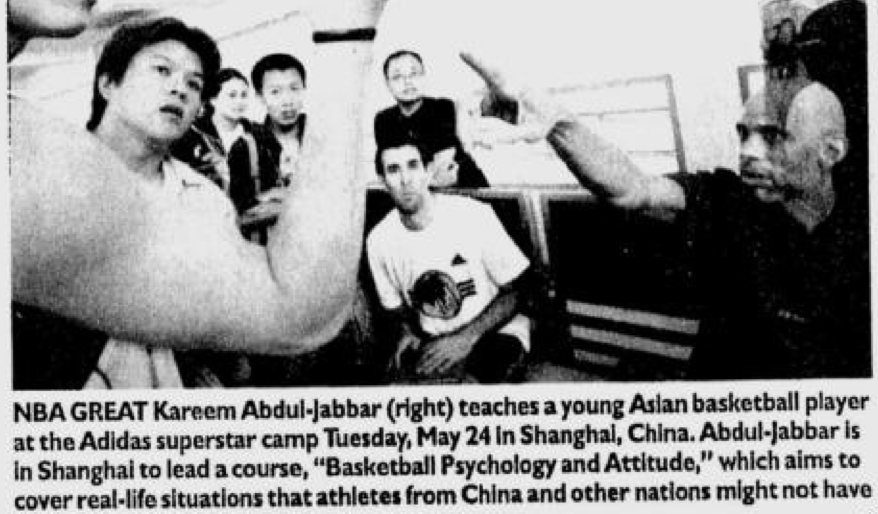
Xu was one of 55 players from China and the region watching Abdul-Jabbar teach American-style physicality as part of a newly developed course called "basketball psychology and attitude."

The class aims to cover real-life situations that occur routinely in the NBA but which athletes from China and other nations might not have experienced, including talking trash and dealing with the media, footwork, fitness and mental preparation.

Abdul-Jabbar showed players how to use their bodies to defend and keep opponents out of the paint. He cited the example of Yao Ming, the Shanghai-born center for the Houston Rockets who has spent two seasons adjusting to the more aggressive American game.

"Yao Ming is a great player, but he has had trouble with other players who keep him off balance and make it hard for him to use his height advantage," Abdul-Jabbar told players seated on the court at the Shanghai Sports Academy.

And he showed off the basics of the "sky-hook," Abdul-Jabbar's trademark shot that has gone the way of canvas sneakers since his 1989 retirement. *AP*



NBA GREAT Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (right) teaches a young Asian basketball player at the Adidas superstar camp Tuesday, May 24 in Shanghai, China. Abdul-Jabbar is in Shanghai to lead a course, "Basketball Psychology and Attitude," which aims to cover real-life situations that athletes from China and other nations might not have experienced. AP

Pistons spoil Shaq's return

Defending champs shackle O'Neal, Wade in Game 1 win

REUTERS

MIAMI—Shaquille O'Neal was back and productive, often barreling his way past the Detroit Pistons. Yet, the end result almost seemed to mirror last year's NBA Finals.

O'Neal did his thing, and it ultimately didn't matter.

Rasheed Wallace shot 4-for-5 from 3-point range and scored 20 points, Chauncey Billups had eight of his 18 points in the fourth quarter, and Ben Wallace had 13 points and 13 rebounds as the Pistons beat the Miami Heat 90-81 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals Monday night.

"It's a big win," Billups said. "Not having homecourt advantage sometimes is an advantage for us because we play with that chip on our shoulder from Game 1. We snuck one out here, snuck one away."

O'Neal—who's still bothered by a bruised thigh—had 20 points in 33 minutes on 9-of-14 shooting.

"I think he will continue to be effective in the series," Heat coach Stan Van Gundy said.

Eddie Jones led the Heat with 22 points, but Dwyane Wade was held to 16 on 7-for-25 shooting, including one run where he was 0-for-8.

Game 2 of the series is Wednesday in Miami, where O'Neal will try to begin an improbable quest he's pulled off three times before—winning a series when dropping the opening game. He's 24-0 when winning Game 1 of a playoff series, 3-8 when his team loses the opener.

No matter what happens in Miami the rest of the way, if Detroit wins out on its home floor, it's headed back to the NBA Finals—where, a year ago, it conceded averages of 26.6 points and 10.8 rebounds to O'Neal, but beat his Los Angeles Lakers in five games.

"Our guys understand that it's not going to be easy," O'Neal said. "We've got to play better. We had a lot of opportunities to win this game. We're not going to hang our heads. We're going to come out and fight in the next game."

Richard Hamilton had 16 points, Tayshaun Prince had 13 and Antonio McDyess added 10 for Detroit, which only had six players score—but all were in double figures.

"We really executed down the stretch, used the clock good, never gave them much opportunities other than that one brief moment," Pistons coach Larry Brown said. "So, good win for us."

Detroit opened the second half on an 8-0 run to build a nine-point lead, and stretched the margin to 64-50 when Hamilton hit a jumper with 5:08 left in the third quarter.

Slowly, the Heat chipped away and eventually clawed back. Miami scored 50 points in the first 29 minutes; it put up 30 in the next 12 minutes, a 9-0 run tying it at 80 on Udonis Haslem's 17-foot jumper with 5:11 left.

After a jumper by Billups and one free throw by O'Neal, Miami got a stop and was poised to take the lead. But Wade missed a 20-footer from the right wing with 4:01 left, the first of eight straight Heat misses to end the game.

"I'll look at the film tomorrow, see what I have to do different, see what I have to do to help my team win," Wade said. "And I will do it. I'm not really worried about that. Good win by Detroit to come in and get this first one, but we can play a lot better."

True, but the Heat now face long odds.

Since 1990, only three teams—the 1993 Chicago Bulls, 2003 San Antonio Spurs and 2004 Pistons—have overcome 1-0 deficits to win their respective conference championship series. Each of those teams went on to win NBA titles.

"It's a seven-game series," Heat center Alonzo Mourning said. "Adversity only makes you stronger. When you go through a loss like this, the only good thing that comes out of it is that."

O'Neal's status was a mystery until just before tip-off. The sold-out arena erupted when he and the Heat took the floor for warmups at 7:58 p.m., although the overhead scoreboard still listed Mourning as Miami's starter at center.

Not only did O'Neal start, he wasted little time in asserting himself.

O'Neal scored the game's first points on a turnaround 20 seconds in and was 4-for-4 in the first 4:11, helping the Heat to an early 13-10 lead. Much like last year in the Finals, he faced largely one-on-one coverage from the Pistons, and O'Neal had success overpowering Ben Wallace and Rasheed Wallace down low.

But even with O'Neal producing, Detroit still led 44-43 at halftime—in large part because of the way it helped Shaq's superstar running mate, Wade, in check. *AP*

Williams gives Orlando lottery magic

SECAUCUS, New Jersey—When it comes to the NBA Draft Lottery, no one intimidates the opposition like Pat Williams of the Orlando Magic.

The senior vice president of the Magic is the king of the NBA's annual pingpong ball event that determines the No. 1 pick and the overall order of the top 14 in the June draft.

He'll have a chance to win another one Tuesday.

Williams and the Magic have walked away with the top pick three times since 1992, including last year when they got the right to select high school star Dwight Howard.

A lottery win in 1992 led to the selection of Shaquille O'Neal, and the one the following year led to a trade that landed Penny Hardaway.

"Most teams have a trophy case full of trophies," Williams said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press late Monday afternoon. "We have a case filled with pingpong balls."

If Williams were to win this year, the NBA might have to do away with the lottery at the request of the rest of the league.

Of the 1,000 potential winning combinations, the Magic (35-46) will have only seven, which is less than a one percent chance of winning.

"We're optimistic," Williams said. "I have never looked at myself as an intimidator but when I walk in there, everyone cowers, the white handkerchiefs come out and everyone starts mopping their brows."

The Atlanta Hawks, who won only 13 games, will have the best chance of winning the lottery with 250 potential winning combinations. New Orleans, Charlotte, Utah, Portland, Milwaukee, Toronto, the Knicks, Golden State, the Lakers, Orlando, the Clippers and Minnesota have the next best shots, respectively.

The Bobcats got a couple of extra combinations because they have the rights to Cleveland's pick.

Williams laughs about bringing good luck charms.

"Billy King blew everyone out of the water last year when he brought one of Smarty Jones' horseshoes, and he ended up getting nothing," Williams said of the Philadelphia 76ers executive decision to ride the luck of last year's Kentucky Derby winner. *AP*

Sixers replace coach with Philadelphia fan favorite

PHILADELPHIA—Jim O'Brien was fired on Monday, after one season as coach of the 76ers, and replaced by former Portland coach Maurice Cheeks, one of the most popular players in Philadelphia's franchise history.

O'Brien, a Philadelphia native, went 43-39 in his only season, and the Sixers were eliminated in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

He was in the first year of a four-year contract that paid him about $4 million a year.

O'Brien, though, was not very popular with his players—most notably former All-Star Chris Webber—who often complained about their roles.

Cheeks was one of the most popular 76ers from 1978-89, and played on Philadelphia's last championship team, in 1983.

Cheeks was fired on March 2 after nearly four seasons as coach of the Trail Blazers. He had a 162-139 in Portland, the fourth-highest win total in Blazers history.

Cheeks guided the team to the playoffs his first two seasons, but the players hardly made Cheeks' tenure easy—on or off the court.

The team was nicknamed the "Jail Blazers" after several brushes with the law, many of them involving marijuana possession.

Cheeks also spent seven seasons as an assistant coach for the 76ers and was part of the staff when they went to the NBA Finals in 2001.

Cheeks will be Philadelphia's fourth coach since Larry Brown resigned and left for Detroit following the 2002-03 season. Randy Ayers was fired 52 games into the 2003-04 season and replaced by Chris Ford.

O'Brien is the son-in-law of Hall of Fame coach Jack Ramsay. He led the Sixers to a 10-win improvement from a year ago and they returned to the playoffs, largely on the back of a healthy, happy Allen Iverson. *AP*

CHEEKS

Parents say US invented heroic story of Tillman

WASHINGTON—The parents of former American gridiron star Pat Tillman blasted the US military for the way they handled a probe into Tillman's death while he was fighting.

The Tillmans, whose son was accidently shot and killed by his fellow US soldiers, told the Washington Post they believe the military and government created a heroic tale about how their son died to foster a nationwide patriotic response.

"After it happened, all the people in positions of authority went out of their way to script this," Patrick Tillman Sr. told the Washington Post.

"They purposely interfered with the investigation, they covered it up. I think they thought they could control it, and they realized that their recruiting efforts were going to go to hell in a handbasket if the truth about the death got out. They blew up their poster boy."

Said Pat Tillman Sr.'s wife Mary, "Pat had high ideals about the country; that's why he did what he did. The military let him down. The administration let him down. It was a sign of disrespect.

"The fact that he was the ultimate team player and he watched his own men kill him is absolutely heartbreaking and tragic. The fact that they lied about it afterward is disgusting."

Pat Tillman gave up a career in the National Football League with the Arizona Cardinals after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks to join the US Army Rangers with his brother.

In spring 2004, Pat Tillman's unit was sent to Afghanistan, where the Rangers were responsible for mopping up the remnants of Taliban and Al-Qaeda forces. But shortly after arriving in the mountains to fight, Pat Tillman was killed in a barrage of gunfire from his own men, mistaken for the enemy. He was 27. *AFP*

MEN'S HAIR LOSS

What Women Think About

When it comes to making an impression with the ladies, having great-looking hair becomes a top priority for men. But have you ever wondered what women are really thinking when they notice your hair... or what's left of it? These lovely women share their thoughts on what matters in a man's mane attraction.

WHAT'S YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF A MAN WHO'S LOSING HAIR?
Barbie Chan (*Makeup artist*): If I see a guy in his 20s losing his hair, I'd feel bad for him because he looks old for his age and he will definitely have a hard time getting girls. People in their 20s associate hair with youth and they are very much into "image". For me, the actor with the best looking hairstyle is Diether Ocampo. It's long and healthy.

WHAT'S YOUR TAKE ON BALDNESS?
Amina Aranaz (*Model/Bag designer*): Baldness is cool if you are confident and not self-conscious about it. Otherwise, there's no harm in taking measures to help it. A man's hair is not really the first thing I notice. However, if a guy sports a really nice hairstyle I will definitely notice it.

DO YOU THINK MEN HAVE A TENDENCY TO BE VAIN ABOUT THEIR HAIR OR TO OVERREACT WHEN IT COMES TO BALDNESS?
Carmi Martin (*Actress*): I think men are more conscious about how their hair looks now. You can see there are a lot of hair clinics or salons that help men improve their hair. It's his crowning glory.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT A MAN'S THICK HAIR THAT MAKES HIM LOOK SEXY?
Delamar (*Disc Jockey*): It's sexy to have the right amout of hair in the right place. For example, I like hair but not on the back! Just the right, healthy amount of hair on the head. Like Peter Gallagher, Hugh Grant or Pierce Brosnan. At their age, it's sexy that they still have a lot of hair when you'd think that they could be losing it by now. If you do have thinning hair, I think that's when you need to find solutions for it.

If you've got hair loss problems, seek the expert help of Svenson International so you can look your best with a full head of hair. Now on its 24th year in the Philippines, Svenson is the preferred choice for hair loss solutions. Call 892-HAIR (4247) and book your appointment for a FREE consultation.

Tanguilig bids to join Golden Tour kickoff

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RHYAN Tanguilig, the 2004 Tour Pilipinas champion, just might see action in the Golden Tour 2005 which pedals off tomorrow in Marikina City.

This after the 26-year-old Tanguilig, who left a career in information technology to pursue cycling, made an appeal to organizers of this year's meet to consider his inclusion.

He was earlier reported to have skipped the event in favor of the Tour of Japan as part of the elite Pagcor Casino Filipino continental team. Tanguilig, however, said he chose to stay behind to compete in the Golden Tour while his teammates do battle in Japan.

Another Pagcor rider, Lloyd Reynante, who finished runner-up to Tanguilig during the 18-stage Tour Pilipinas last year, reportedly begged off from the event.

Organizers are now considering the inclusion of Tanguilig on account of his sensational triumph last year when the Aritao, Nueva Viscaya, pride showcased his all-around expertise in flat, uphill and downhill roads.

TANGUILIG

The organizers, Dynamic Outsouce Solutions Inc. and T&G Tourism and Development Corp., received a verbal appeal from Tanguilig yesterday and were only awaiting the rider's written request.

As this developed, the Department of Tourism will be one of nine teams participating in the Golden Tour presented by Tanduay.

The Tourism squad, to be skippered by Lito Atilano, joined Guerrero Brandy, Colt 45, Go21, Touch Mobile, PLDT and advocacy teams—the Customs R.A.T.S of Customs Commissioner and PhilCycling president Bert Lina, and the BIR Vat Riders of Commissioner Guillermo Parayno.

Eighty-one riders are divided among the nine teams. Team skippers are Colt 45's Warren Davadilla, Guerrero Brandy'S Enrique Domingo, Touch Mobile's Santy Barnachea, PLDT's Arnel Quirimit, Go21's Baler Ravina, Vat Riders' Eusebio Quionones, Custom's Reynaldo Navarro and Tourism's Frederick Feliciano.

The major sponsors are Sunbolt (official sports drink), Summit (official water), Osaka Iridology, which will provide the uniforms for the cyclists and members of the Tour entourage, Island Souvenirs, PhilAm Life and Nestle Power Bar.

The Tour, drastically shortened this year and moved late into the summer season, will cover about 1,500 km with finish lines in Lucena City, Tagaytay City, Olongapo, Alaminos, Vigan, Baguio and Angeles City.

BF Resort Village tops intervillage south golf

BF RESORT Village kept the momentum of its first round romp in the Nokia intervillage golf series and dished out a superb second round stint worth 305 points to dominate the south sector tournament at Canlubang's south course Monday.

Robert Reyes matched his solid 40-point output at The Riviera last month while the rest likewise played true to form to steer the BF Resort Village Golfers Association to the top of the 36-hole tournament for villages in Paranaque, Las Pinas and Muntinlupa and into the grand finals of the event sponsored by telecommunications giant Nokia.

Counting its first round score of 307 points under the Stableford scoring system, BF Resort Village pooled a 612 and won by 20 points over BF Homes PGA, which snatched the second berth with a 295 for a 592.

It was a big comeback for BF Homes PGA, which fought back from fifth place after the first 18 holes but finished a strong second behind Art Ampaya's back-to-back 39s. Tahanan came through with a steady 270 to clinch the third and last spot in the grand finals with a 571 aggregate.

Levitown-Don Bosco shot a 279 but could only land in fourth place with a 551, the same output put in by Merville Park after a 273 at the close of the sectoral tournament backed by 357 Boracay, BJ Marthel International, Inc., Pioneer Insurance and Surety Corp., Atendido Marketing, Inc., Sonlie International, Inc., Pisanti golf shirts and TCL Sun, Inc.

Marcelo Green proved to be the day's biggest casualty when it struggled with a 245 after firing a solid 303 in the first round, falling from second place to sixth at 548.

Backing Reyes for BF Resort were Louie Bustamante and Gen. Jose Lalisan, who both fired 39 points, Jojo Bondoc and Fred Suarez, who each shot 38 points, while Arnold Jumalon, Rupert Bayocot and Col. Boysie Rosales came up with identical 37s.

Aguilar wins Supercross kickoff leg

ILOILO CITY—Eight-time national champion Glenn Aguilar returned to the scene of his past triumphs and ruled the centerpiece Pro Open category in the kickoff leg of the 2005 Camel Supercross International Championship Series before a big weekend crowd at the Sta. Barbara International Raceway here.

Holding his own against Tadakazu Otsuka of Japan and James Robinson of Dickies-New Zealand, Aguilar overcame several anxious moments and seized top honors in the series sponsored by Camel in cooperation with the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

The 31-year-old former Asian Supercross champion finished second to Robinson in the morning race following an early-race spill but came back to dominate the afternoon race and take a headstart in Camel's 16th year anniversary presentation with a two-race total of 47 points

Aguilar's Caltex Revtex teammates Bebet de la Cruz and Junjun San Andres relegated Robinson to seventh-place in the afternoon race.

The dismal finish left the 23-year old New Zealand rider with only 39 points, eight behind Aguilar and three behind De la Cruz in the overall tally in this annual Camel-sponsored series.

"I'm happy to win again," said Aguilar, who also dominated Camel's two-part series held in Roxas City and Bacolod City last year. "The two foreign riders invited by Camel are really very tough, and I'm glad I did not disappoint the fans by still finishing ahead of them."

Otsuka, however, prevented a double victory by Aguilar by edging the Filipino in the Camel Pro 125 class. Otsuka finished with 47 points to Aguilar's 45 points.

AGUILAR soars anew.

Sharing the limelight was little-known JB Bacabac of Des Marketing, who swept the Enduro, Enduro Novice and Scooter races.

The other winners were Rodel Cameros (Expert Open); Nonoy Abraham (Novice Open Production); Erick Mitra (Novice 125 Production); Heres Suresca (Beginner Open Production); Junjun San Andres (Veterans); Dexter Bacabac (Executive); JB Bacabac (Enduro and Enduro Novice); and Michael Desbaro (Pantra).

The series continues its Visayan swing with the second leg on June 19 in Bacolod City.

Westin hosting martial arts tilt

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza and the Philippine International Taekwondo Federation (PITF) will hold the 2nd National Martial Arts Tournament at the hotel's Harbor Garden on Sunday, May 29.

Five hundred martial artists from major taekwondo and karate clubs in Metro Manila will participate in the tournament expected to draw a thousand spectators.

The tournament aims to raise funds in support of the Philippine campaign in the 7th Junior and 2nd Veteran Taekwondo World Championships in 2006.

PITF and The Westin Philippine Plaza won the bid for Manila to be the host of this event. For inquiries, call 551-5555 ext. 1588 or 1587.

Pagulayan . . . From page A25

There's Efren "Bata" Reyes wanting to regain his winning touch. There's Warren Kiamco and Ramil Gallego wanting to translate their successes in Japan with a win on local soil. And there's Jose "Amang" Parica wanting to reassert his supremacy against local cue artists after years of absence in the country.

Pagulayan, Bustamante, Reyes, Kiamko, Gallego, Parica, Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, Gandy Valle, the eight seeded players, will be joined by the top eight finishers in the ongoing qualifying phase at the AMF-Puyat Billiards Hall in Ever Gotesco Commonwealth.

Lee Vann Corteza, Antonio Gabica, Leonardo "Dodong" Andam and Antonio "Nickoy" Lining remained undefeated in the qualifier yesterday to move within a win of a spot in the main draw.

Corteza edged veteran Godofredo Ducanes, 7-6, Gabica downed Jose Del Rosario, 7-4, Andam nipped Venancio Tanio, 7-6, and Lining trounced Allan Cuartero, 7-5.

SPORTSWATCH

Parañaque supports young swimmer

PARANAQUE Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana has extended support to Philippine junior national swimming team member Erika Louise Yulo Visitacion for the coming 29th ASEAN South East Asian Age-Group championship slated in Brunei from June 3-5. "Never shall we allow Parañaque to be left behind," said Yllana. "We shall take care of our own. We are behind you all the way, we hope to see you carry the Parañaque pride in the next Olympics." Visitacion was chosen from the finest swimmers from all over the archipelago. Yllana's support to Visitacion is part of his campaign to promore sports and excellence city-wide in the hope of discovering and enhancing the talent of Parañaque youth through his program, Parañaque ang Galing Mong Atleta (PGMA).

So bids to become youngest jr champ

FIDE Master Wesley So opened his bid to become the country's youngest ever juniors champion with a masterful demolition of Ray Lalap in the first round of the 2005 National Juniors Championship late Monday at the Activity Center of SM Manila. Actually, So has already made history by merely showing up in the tournament organized and sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP). His participation made him the youngest ever top seed in the annual event at the age of 11. National Masters Julius Joseph De Ramos and Roderick Nava joined So in the win column by beating Jordan Canada and Gian Carlo Lozano, respectively. Defending champion NM Oliver Mendoza and NM John Paul Mendoza begged off for varying reasons.

3rd ABC golf tournament

REP. Robert Ace Barbers (2nd District, Surigao del Norte) will be holding the Third Ace Barbers Cup (ABC) golf tournament on May 27 at the Legends Course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite. Some 150 players are expected to participate in this event. This year's fund-raiser would benefit the ABAKADA Foundation. Among the major partners are San Miguel Super Dry, PLDT, United Philippine and China Mining Corporation, Fortune Tobacco Corporation. and Skyland Holdings. Proceeds will be used to build additional classrooms for public schools, and for scholarships and books. For inquiries, contact 9287221/4266001 ext. 4638 or (0917)9216073/(0917)8556302 or e-mail acebarberscup@yahoo.com.

PCCA winners get trophies Monday

WINNERS in the fiercely contested Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) Cocker of the Year race will receive trophies and cash prizes in a simple awarding ceremony to be held on Monday, May 30 at Casino Filipino–Silahis. The affair starts at 7 p.m. Pasay Cockpit managers Eric dela Rosa, Butchoy Olano and Roming Vergara said all 32 PCCA members plus several guests will grace the occasion. Former World Slasher champ Rey Briones is this year's PCCA Cocker of the Year after his bet, Spartan's Blood, tallied 21.5 points in eight PCCA derbies. Jake Macasaet is first runner-up (Greenwood, 19) while Benjie Lim (PEBR SP Makisig) and Frankie Uy (Colorado) are second runners-up.

adidas CEO discussing global sports marketing

SHANGHAI CAMP: Filipino teeners Francis Miguel Maniego (left) and Thomas Babilonia left Sunday for Shanghai, China, to join 20 other youths from the Asia-Pacific region in the adidas Superstar Camp slated this week in which NBA legend and six-time MVP Kareem Abdul-Jabbar leads the list of lecturers. Sending them off are adidas Phils., Inc. president John Alonte (third from left) and marketing director Angelica Suiza.

HOW global sports apparel firm adidas manages to take outdo the competition through sports marketing will be explained today during the National Marketing Conference (NMC) at the Westin Philippine Plaza hotel.

BEZU flies in today.

Christopher Bezu, adidas Salomon AG chief executive officer for the Asia-Pacific region, will discuss "Challenging Global Brands through Sports Marketing Events" during the day-long conference that will gather the country's marketing leaders.

Organized by the Philippine Marketing Association, the annual conference works on this year's theme "Extreme Marketing Challenge: The Road to Convergence."

Bezu will arrive today from Hong Kong. A product of business school Sup de Co in Paris, he has been with adidas for over two decades now.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Loaded 2. Feng Shui 3. Mr. Speaker 4. Princess Sarah

Race 2—1. Bulakeña 2. Moneyline 3. Sharon's Cookie 4. Sweet Connections/Neon Lights

Race 3—1. Fly Aday Fly 2. Hale and Hearty 3. Open Sky 4. Juara 5. Galaxy Wars

Race 4—1. Smart Choice 2. Fabiola 3. Weekend Master 4. High Class

Race 5—1. Golden Harry 2. Audrey's Temper/Arrogante 3. Iron Will 4. Heart of Jonna 5. Mr. Bonjing

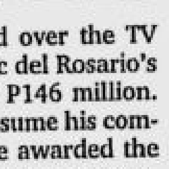
Race 6—1. Perky Perp 2. La Signorina 3. Take Ten 4. Sweet Alyssa

Race 7—1. Rindo Maker 2. Noble Principality 3. Better Beth 4. Accomplice 5. Kalashnikov

Race 8—1. Ocean Cookie 2. Demolition Jack 3. Gold Pyramid 4. Tini Bambini 5. Red Bells 6. Stradivarius

Shell evaluating performance of Turbochargers

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

"IS SHELL really disbanding at the end of the season?"

I needed to pose this question to Shell governor Bobby Kanapi, although I think I already know the answer. I wanted an official declaration from him.

Bobby K. was at least honest enough not to issue a vehement denial.

"We're evaluating the performance of the team, much in the same way almost every other ballclub does towards the end of the season," Bobby explained briefly.

I didn't press him any further. After all, he'll have to make the announcement sooner or later. Meantime, let him have the chance to relocate his players and even to sell the Shell franchise which, I heard, has been offered to a moneyed PBL team.

Actually, I'm told that Shell was not the only PBA team to offer its franchise. There was another one.

The PBL squad I'm referring to is not Welcoat.

***

Vintage's Bobong Velez admits he was elated when he received an invitation recently to bid for the 2006 PBA television franchise.

"Of course I felt good, of course I was flattered to have been considered to bid," said Bobong who had to give up the same franchise more than 5 years ago in midseason and mid-contract, after being the TV coveror for 20 years, and after bringing the league to the height of popularity.

Bobong had no choice. His debt to the league in 1999 was piling up, he was losing his shirt. His marketing group could not sell enough spots to be able to pay the yearly franchise fee that skyrocketed during the last bidding.

Bobong was paying the PBA P275 million a year for the franchise fee when he lost it. He couldn't believe that it was now down to only P 60 million.

When Vintage turned over the TV franchise contract to Vic del Rosario's Viva, he owed the PBA P146 million. Although Viva had to assume his company's obligations to be awarded the rest of Vintage's 5-year contract, Bobong was still left with a debt of P20 million which he paid over the last five years.

"I am now fully paid. I'm cleared," he said.

***

Because he was so preoccupied preparing for the opening of his newest business venture, the MEZZE (pronounced mezey), a resto bar located at Greenbelt 2, Bobong had no time to pay much attention to the PBA's invitation.

He set it aside temporarily, thinking he would take a second look later.

"I'm going full circle in reviving all my previous projects and business interests this year. The Mezze should replace the old Dona Nena's Resto and Faces Disco, this December I am staging another classic Ateneo-De la Salle showdown (he was the first to embark on this project), and now a chance to regain the PBA Tv franchise.

The last should complete the circle for Bobong.

But first things first. Mezze, his restaurant that transforms into a bar at 10 p.m., will first have to be launched and stabilized. Bobong gave two dates for the launching: May 24 for the oldies but goodies and May 28 for the yuppies. A sentimental soul, Bobong expects all his old friends to be there. Also the beautiful people of Metro Manila.

***

Concerned about the outcome of today's general assembly called by the Philippine Olympic Committee to decide whether or not the Basketball Asociaqtion of the Philippines would be suspended "for reneging on a commitment made the other basketball stakeholders," I called a prominent and very knowledeabgle NSA head to ask for his position and his forecast.

I got almost nothing from him. His lips were tight shut as an unsteamed oyster.He said he will not allow himself to be pushed into the limelight again. He has learned his lesson and would like to rest his badly battered psyche.

He did let out several words though, and fortunately, these were the ones that mattered.

"Actually, what will happen in the May 25 assembly is not really that important. What is important is the FIBA's decision on the matter, because the BAP is under the jurisdiction of the FIBA and not the POC," he said.

SUBIC BAY INT'L

Joson, Chiongbian lead triathlon winners

BUSINESSMAN-ATHLETE Patrick Joson and television sports show host Tricia Chiongbian claimed line honors among age-group entries in the recent 11th Subic Bay International Triathlon inside the Subic Bay Freeport.

Joson, 27, clocked 2:25:46 for the 15K swim, 40K bike, 10K run event that saw the temperature soar to 38 degrees centigrade. Newcomer Chiongbian submitted a time of 2:56:22.

Joson ruled the 25-29 years old category, followed by Alexander Leuterio and John Omar Paredes. In the younger 20-24 years, Raymark Dabu, Miguel Ferido and Paul John Galang were the top finishers.

The 30-34 age group winners were Chris Pollard, Jon-Jon Rufino and Enrico Ayson.

Jojo Macalintal, Mark Ellis and Juan Apolinario Reyes topped the 35-39 age group, while Rune Stroem led the finishers in the 40-44 bracket with Jaime Lopez and Lorenzo Ocampo.

Veteran Alvin Alindogan ruled the 45-49 age group followed by Lael Martin and Neils Have.

Sergio Ravina emerged champion among the 50-54 age groupers with runners-up Jose Santos and Rodolfo Dizon. The oldest age group of 55 and over was won by Don Bozarth with Roger Espiritu and Pio Salvador in second and third places.

In the women's side of the event which had Sen. Pia Cayetano, Speedo, PowerBar, Diner's International Card, SBMA, David's Salon, Stronghold Insurance, Smart Addict Mobile Pre-Paid, Asian Centre for Insulation, Fitness First and Legenda Hotels as major sponsors, Chiongbian ruled the 30-34 age group. She was followed by Rhodora Cortez and Ann Sally Clark.

Other women top finishers were Chona Cunanan in the 20-24 age group and Pauline Pugeda and Michelle Go in the 25-29 group. Nona Torres won among the 35-39 age group entries with Gianna Rodriguez in second place. Lone finisher in the 40 and over was Sonia Chua.

SEN. PIA Cayetano confers with TRAP president Tom Carrasco Jr. during the Subic Bay International Triathlon.

AIMING FOR A SWEEP: The National Archery Association of the Philippines, bannered by Purita Joy H. Marino (right), 2001 SEA Games gold medalist, looks forward to a sweep of the eight gold medals at stake in the archery competitions of the coming Southeast Asian Games. The RP archers are receiving support from San Miguel Corp., which has designated Purefoods Beefies as sponsoring brand for the NAAP bets in the SEAG. Guiding the archers are NAAP head coach Henry Manalang and Jane Llanes-Francisco, SMC media relations manager and the company's SEA Games project director for archery and dancesports.

Super X Series 2nd leg elims kick off Thursday

THE SECOND leg of the Philippine Super X Series 2005, dubbed as the Northern and Central Luzon Eliminations, will kick off Thursday at the Hilaga (formerly Paskuhan Village) San Fernando, Pampanga.

Slots for the national finals will be up for grabs again in Skateboarding, BMX Stunts and Flatland and Aggressive In-Line.

For every sport, the top 10 athletes in the seniors division and top 5 athletes in the juniors divisions will be advancing to the national finals.

Athlete registration will be on Thursday starting at 8 a.m. Elimination starts at 4 p.m., while the finals will start on Friday at 4 p.m.

The event is co-presented by Red Horse Beer, produced and organized by Urge Magazine under Rekta Productions and Sport Management Inc., with the support of Lee Pipes, Globe Shoes, Mountain Dew, Ama ng Buhayin ang Maynila—Mayor Lito Atienza with Ali Atienza of Masco and Kuya Kim Atienza, The Journal Group, RX 93.1, WLS 97.1-Push Radi, Home Radio 97.9, Pulp Magazine, NU 107, The Abante Group, Vans Footwear, The Daily Tribune, Manila Times, Paskuhan Hotel, The Freeman Cebu, Philippine Tourism Authority-Hilag, RCTV Cebu, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, NU 107, Atlas Sport Magazine, Killer Bee Cebu and MTV Ink. For inquires, call (632) 886-4418 or e-mail urge-mag@yahoo.com

CD0 tops Northern Mindanao football

CAGAYAN de Oro won the Northern Mindanao leg of the 1st PFF-Petron U-17 Championships by beating Iligan City, 4-1, recently at the Iligan City National High School pitch.

Cagayan de Oro surged ahead on James Kirk Dacu's goal on the 15th minute but the hosts leveled on the 58th minute with Nerio Campilan's strike.

With eight minutes left, CD0's Jaymile Conmigo hit the back of the net and there was no crawling back for a demoralized Iligan selection.

Dacu added salt to the wound with his second goal on the 88th minute and Emiliano Mabacus scored with a minute later for the final tally of the thrilling final.

The event was hosted by the Iligan City Football Association and backed by Iligan City Sports Administrator Frederick Siao, Councilor Vicente "Varf" Balmonte and Iligan City FA president Lloyd Lapinig. Tournament commissioner was Erwin Protacio.

Servando, Alcala gain jrs finals

NIKKI Therese Servando of Shuttler's Haven overwhelmed Alexandra Villarin, 11-1, 11-0, to arrange a showdown with Kawasaki/Sports Hub's Malvinne Alcala for the 10-under girls' crown in the JVC Badminton Open Juniors Championships at SM Southmall over the weekend.

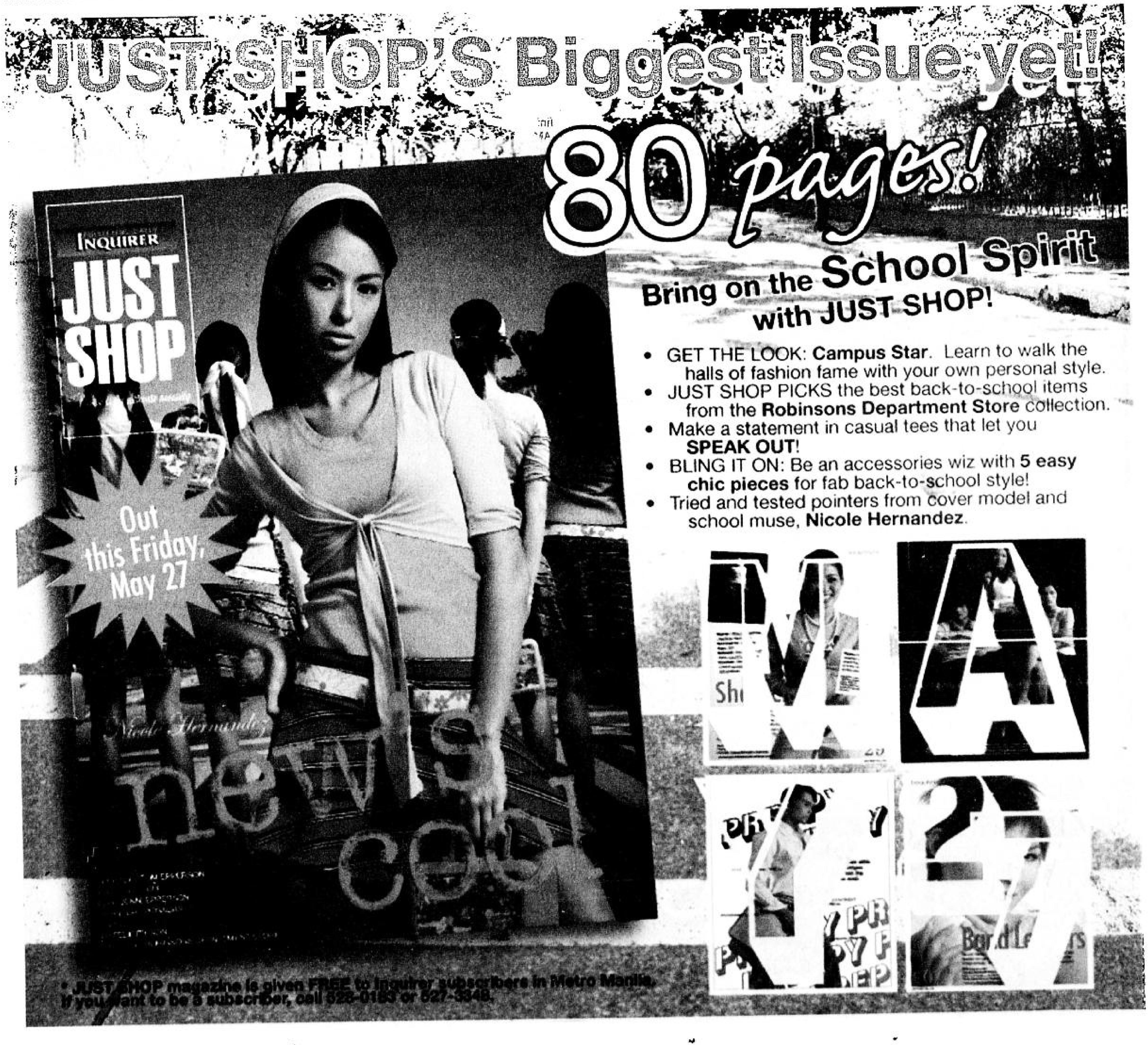
Although Servando, who beat Michelle Millan of Centro Atletico, 11-4, 11-2, in the quarters, romped over Villarin, Alcala had an even easier time as she won via walkover over Chrismayne Co in the other semis clash.

In boys' play, Jan Banquiles of Centro Atletico downed Julius Lagdamen of San Juan Badminton Center, 15-5, 15-8, to set up a title clash with Al Craven Chan of RSL, who booted out Antonio Villarin of Anvil BC, 15-1, 15-0.

The finals of the 10-under will be held on May 28 at SM Megamall with hostilities in the 14-under division of the event to be held on May 27 with the staging of the semifinal round.

In doubles play, Banquiles eyes a sweep of the 10-under class as he teamed up with Chan to beat the Bon Erick Chu-Matthew Pilones tandem, 15-7, 15-7, to barge into the finals.

They will face the pair of Jayvie Cagomoc and Julius Lagdamen, who subdued the Kenedy Espina-Judd Joseph Reyes tandem, 15-4, 15-6, in the other semis contest of the event backed by Gosen, Cebu Pacific, Water Front Hotels and Lactacyd.



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2 Pinoy chessers triumph in Minneapolis, pocket ₱1-M each

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota—Two Filipino chessers topped their respective divisions Sunday (Monday in Manila) and won the equivalent of more than P1 million each in the $500,000 HB Global Chess Challenge at the Minneapolis Convention Center here.

Andrew Cunanan and Karl Victor Ochoa won $20,000 each for winning the Under-2200 and Under-2000 sections, respectively.

A novice in big-money events, the 27-year-old Cunanan who is now based in Jacksonville, Florida, scored 8 out of 9 points to be the solo winner in his division, while Ochoa, who now calls California home, posted 8.5 out of 9 points.

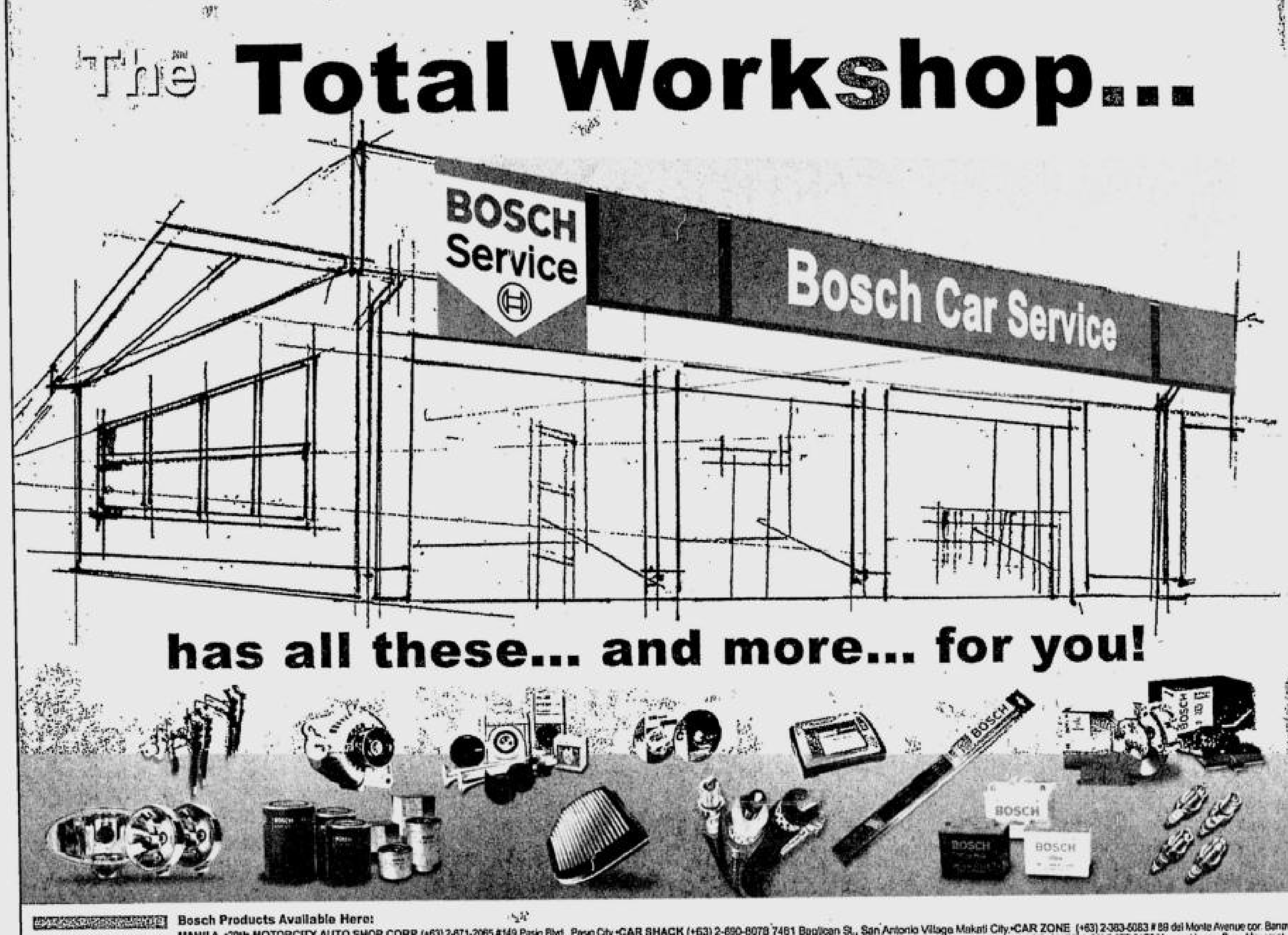
Another Filipino, 22-year-old Anton Paolo del Mundo, finished with 6 points and won $7,000 in the grandmasters-laden Under-2400 section of the world's most lucrative Swiss system tournament.

GMs Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr. and Nelson Mariano as well as IM Enrico Sevillano wound up with 6 points and were in a big group that tied for 17th place in the Open section that lured 50-plus GMs.

Luningning Ochoa, mother of Karl Victor from Pulilan, Bulacan, said she would invest her son's prize for his college education.

Del Mundo, who graduated with a degree in software engineering at the University of Maryland College Park in Virginia, was a former Milo Checkmate champion who led Ateneo to four successive UAAP high school championships.

The Open winner was GM Zviad Izoria of Georgia who scored 7.5 points and took the top purse of $50,000. He also won a watch studded with 200 small diamonds worth $7,000. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

WOWmalingMaLi!
9PM SABADO SABAGO!
ABC
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4:25 PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh! (5:10 PM)	Meteor Garden Full Edition		TV Patrol World		Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Hiram	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Memories Of Bali	Stained Glass	Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	EZ Shop	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	American Idol		Look Who's Talking	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Flame Of Recca	Full House		24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	All About Eve	Extra Challenge		Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	The Insider	Tough Enough	7 Days		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Sagot Natin Kasama Si Joey Luna		Road Trip
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		On Air Tambayan		Direk	Junior Reyes Report	Bestfriends	Celebrity Single	Retro TV	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
JackTV	Banzai	X-Men	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Filter	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Chapelle's Show	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Live!		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Single Life	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Eliminidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Dobol Trobol				Bilangin Ang Bituin Sa Langit				Dillinger ng Dose Pares			Persona	Batch '81 (9:15 PM)				Pepeng Agimat	
Studio 23		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Super Gals	My MYX	Batman Beyond	Project Arms	Wazzup Wazzup	C.S.I.			Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah		The Good Life With Cory Quirino
AXN		The Amazing Race 7				Gensomaden Saiyuki	Gensomaden Saiyuki	Pensacola (Season III)		Boomtown		The World's Most Shocking Moments Caught On Tape		CSI: Las Vegas (Season 5)		The Contender			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		American Idol		Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	American Idol		Chronicles: News From The Edge				Friends	American Idol
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Showreal Asia		Taboo		Dangerous Jobs		Egypt Detectives: Mystery of The Pharaoh's Stone	Africa From The Ground Up	Wow		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Showreal Asia		Deep Jungle	
Solar Sports					Koty Magazine	The Badminton Masters '05 Finals			FED Cup 1st rnd '05 USA vs. Belgium				Sports Desk	NBA Western Conf. Finals Game1					NBA Action
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		You're Invited	Life & Style		Style Star	Nigella Bites II	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
HBO	Raiders Of The Lost Ark (2:20 PM)				Tommy Boy (4:20 PM)			The Wild Thornberrys Movie			Babe			Tango & Cash			Disclosure (10:45PM)		
Star Movies	Children of the Corn (2:40 PM)			Jet Lag (4:15 PM)			Abandon (5:45 PM)				Target Of Opportunity			Die Another Day				The Real McCoy (11:15PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Codename: Kids Next Door	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Gundam Wing	Shaman King	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Gundam Seed
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax				The Addams Family			Dead Air (5:45 PM)			The Cowboy Way (7:15 PM)				Threshold			Dragnet (10:25PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Missing		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	Bewitched	Hustle		Missing		A Carol Christmas			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Five Days To Midnight
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		The Last Day Of Pompeii		Hidden History Of Rome		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Hour Asia	
Sports Plus				Wachovia C'ship Highlights		French Open '05 Day3 2nd rd.													
NBN	Taiwan Winner TV Shopping	Value Vision			Teledyaryo	Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Talk Ko 'To		Linya		Teledyaryo		Network Forum		Paco Park Presents			

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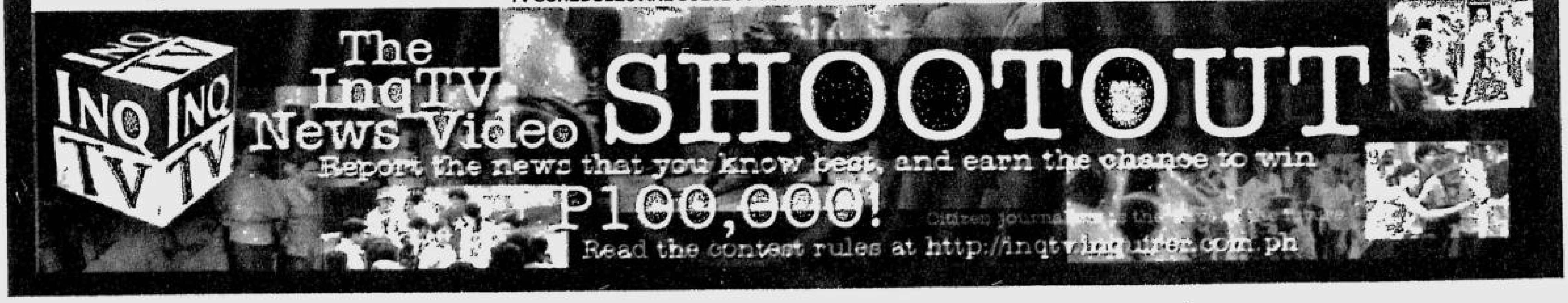
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ANGELES: Swell head?

Hero breaks silence

He wasn't suspended by ABS-CBN, his brother-manager says, and he certainly did not pick a fight with love-team partner Sandara Park

By Marinel R. Cruz

HERO Angeles, last year's "Star Circle Teen Quest" winner, admits he had a falling out with love-team partner Sandara Park, but denies being suspended by ABS-CBN, his home studio.

Hero's brother and manager Henry Angeles said the rift between his brother and Sandara started while the two were promoting their hit movie "Can This Be Love?" in March. Henry did not elaborate.

"They had a misunderstanding. They never got the chance to patch things up. Sandara already left for Korea," Henry told INQUIRER Entertainment last week. "They're civil toward each other, though. But I don't think they can still do a project together."

Sandara, a Korean national, placed second to Hero in the talent search. She flew to Korea last week, reportedly to finish school.

Hero has been the subject of stories in the tabloids these past two weeks. Some reports say ABS-CBN suspended the actor because he had an "attitude problem."

"He was never suspended," Henry insisted, "or we would have received a memo from Star Magic by now."

Star Magic is ABS-CBN's talent center.

Henry said his brother was "puzzled" about the "negative" stories. "How come none of them tried to talk with us and clarify things?," Henry wondered. "We never had the chance to air our side, or even express our sentiments. There were writers who got in touch with with us, but they never wrote what we talked about."

Now, Henry said, the family has decided to "clear our name."

Contrary to what earlier came out in the papers, he pointed out, his brother never demanded "VIP treatment" from network executives or from Star Magic. He also denied stories saying Hero caused trouble on the set of his movie with Sandara.

"One story said *malaki na ang ulo ni* Hero. Another said Hero and I had a quarrel with Direk Joey (Reyes, 'Can This Be Love?')," Henry said. "As far as Hero was concerned, things went on smoothly."

Henry added that the whole family was upset after reading articles implying that the family was making a milking cow out of Hero. "*Pinapagod daw namin si* Hero; we let him do all the work. That's not true. There was even a story that said *sinulsulan ko si* (I urged) Hero to start a fight with Sandara."

Henry stressed that nothing of the sort happened.

Hero's mom, Leny, said write-ups describing her as a "stage mom" made her depressed. "I try not to go to the Star Magic offices precisely because I don't want to be accused of that," she explained. "For the record, I've been there only once. I feel very bad. *Pero pinagpapasa-Diyos ko na lang.*"

Henry said he was also wondering how issues that concerned only ABS-CBN and their family are leaked to the press. He was specifically referring to the time when Sandara failed to show up at a promotional show with Hero at the Pacific Mall in Lucena City on April 23. The Korean actress had to fly to Cebu that same day.

"The write-ups said it had become my habit to bring ABS-CBN talents to provincial shows without the network's permission," said Henry. "I'm not only Hero's manager. I'm a booker, too. I make sure that I have the approval of managers before I bring talents to the provinces. The gig in Lucena City had been booked way ahead."

Again he lamented: "Where did those writers get that story? They should have called me before publishing it. [As it was] the facts were twisted. It's so sad."

VALENCIANO with son Gabriel in Ilocos concert

'Gary V @22'

GARY Valenciano is celebrating his 22nd year in show business in a big way.

He is currently touring the North for the "Gary V Hits Series," which he brought to Visayas and Mindanao earlier this year. The show broke records at the Panaad Festival in Bacolod where he drew the biggest crowd in Negros concert history, with at least 25,000 people in attendance.

Tomorrow, he is a finalist for Best Performance by a Male Recording at the 18th Awit Awards.

Soon to be released are a music video collection and a music book featuring him as a songwriter with piano arrangements by Raul Sunico. At 40, Gary is busy recording several other albums and has been been touring malls as well to promote "Soul Full," his latest Universal Records release.

"Break Me," one of the cuts in the album, has earned for the singer an invitation from "700 Club" host Gordon Robertson sing the song later this year in the show's Virginia Beach edition, which will be shown nationwide in the United States.

On June 9, 10, 16, and 17 he pays tribute to Bella Tan, Universal Records lady boss who passed away recently—with whom he co-produced over 16 albums that sold at least a million copies—with a concert series titled "Gary V @ 22."

OPENING THIS WEEK

La Visa Loca

Directed by Mark Meily
Stars Robin Padilla, Rufa Mae Quinto, Johnny Delgado

SUMMARY: Jesse Huson, a limo-service driver and registered nursing aid/caregiver (Robin Padilla), has a single goal in life: to migrate, like most of his countrymen, to the United States. The movie chronicles his quest for a US visa and the great lengths he would go to, including having himself crucified in Holy Week rites, to fulfill his American dream.

Just like Mark Meily's first film "Crying Ladies," his "La Visa Loca" was rated A by the Cinema Evaluation Board.

And just like his debut, this second outing explores a unique facet of Pinoy culture. "The Filipino psyche is very colorful," Meily explains. "We shout about how patriotic we are and yet we laugh at government leaders and celebrities who can't speak English . . . We are predominantly Catholics, yet most of what we think are Filipino Christian traditions have pagan origins. The number one symbols of Christmas here are the Christmas tree and snow, but there are neither fir trees nor snow in this country. Aren't we Pinoys special?" (Opens May 25)

Unleashed

Directed by Louis Leterrier
Stars Jet Li, Bob Hoskins, Morgan Freeman, Kerry Condon

SUMMARY: Danny the Dog (Jet Li) was kidnapped as a child, raised in captivity and turned into a personal weapon of mass destruction by Bart, a Glasgow gangster (Bob Hoskins). Danny is "freed" from his master's evil influence and experiences kindness for the first time from his "adopted" family—a blind piano tuner (Morgan Freeman) and his stepdaughter (Kerry Condon).

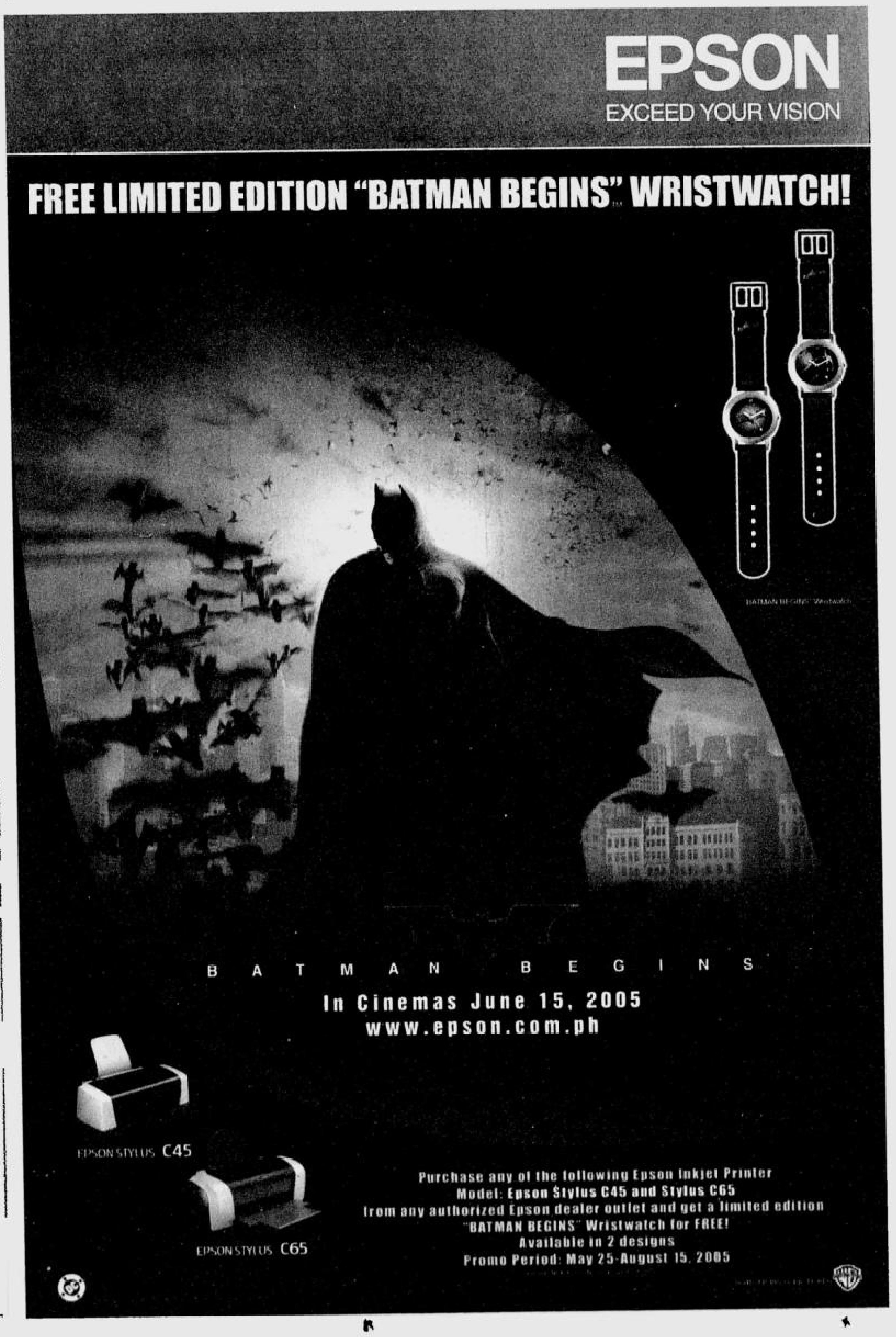
Penned and produced by eccentric visionary Luc Besson, "Unleashed" was described by Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times, as "ingenious in its construction." Those seeking the chopsocky chills and thrills of previous Jet Li hits will not be disappointed, Ebert points out. He also notes that it's "choreographed by Yeun-Wo-ping... who creates improbable but delightful ballets of chops and socks, leaps and twists and kicks and improvisations." The whole thing could've been laughable, Ebert says, but it works because of the inspired performances of Li, Hoskins, and Freeman, and because of Besson who bravely "thinks out of the box." (Opens May 25.)

House of Wax

Directed by Jaume Collet-Sera
Stars Elisha Cuthbert, Chad Michael Murray, Brian Van Holt, Paris Hilton, Jared Padalecki

SUMMARY: Bored twentysomethings embark on a holiday in hell. Once again, a bunch of clueless youth gets slaughtered one by one after stumbling on an old wax museum in an abandoned town. As gang members start vanishing, the exhibits in the wax museum increase. It doesn't take a genius to figure out the con-

OPENING/ A2-3



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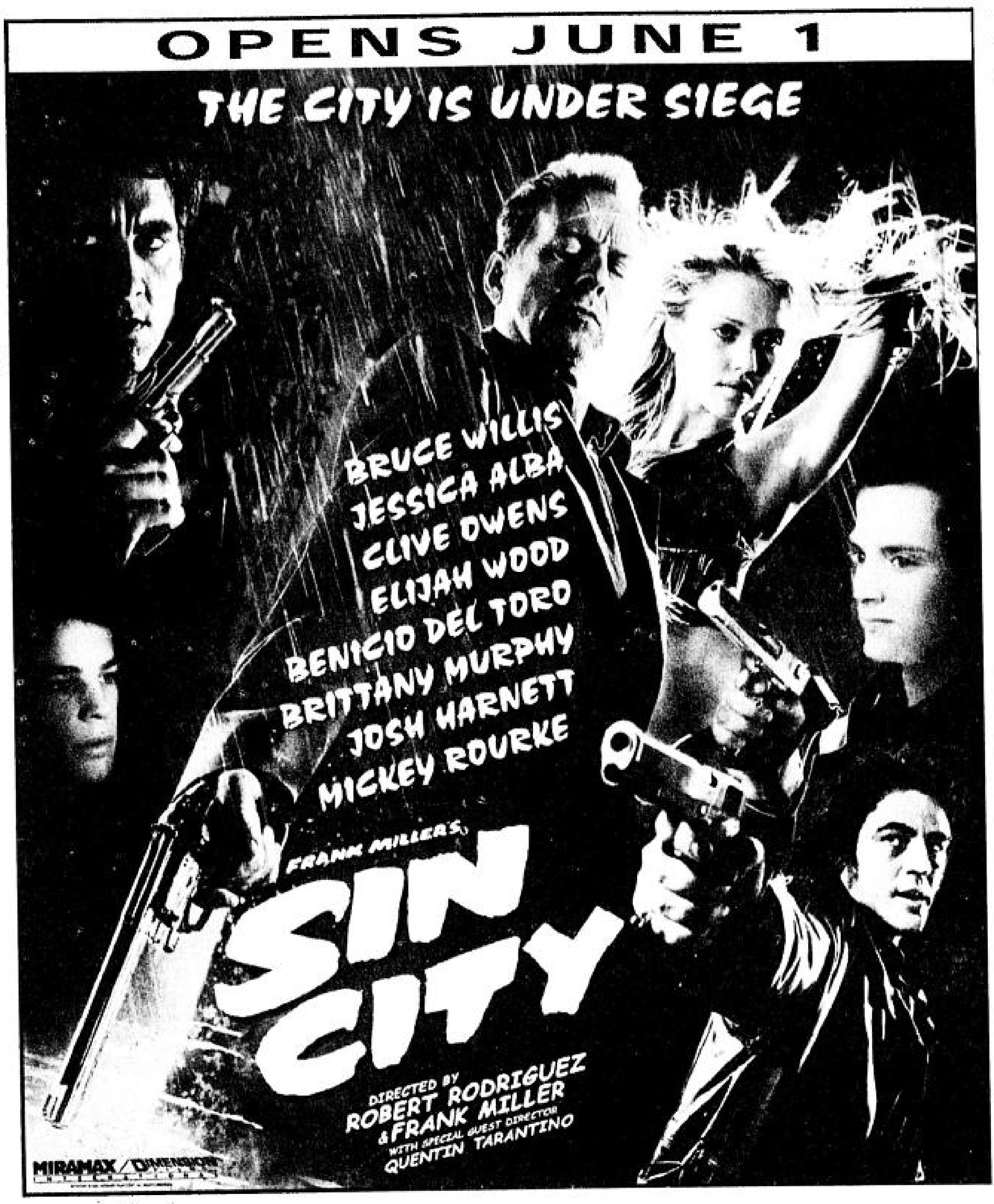

OPENS JUNE 1
THE CITY IS UNDER SIEGE
BRUCE WILLIS
JESSICA ALBA
CLIVE OWENS
ELIJAH WOOD
BENICIO DEL TORO
BRITTANY MURPHY
JOSH HARNETT
MICKEY ROURKE
FRANK MILLER'S
SIN CITY
DIRECTED BY ROBERT RODRIGUEZ & FRANK MILLER
WITH SPECIAL GUEST DIRECTOR QUENTIN TARANTINO
MIRAMAX / DIMENSION

BO gave "performance of the season."

Final face-off today

CARRIE has been constant favorite.

BO BICE and Carrie Underwood, the last two American Idols standing, face off today—10 p.m. on ABC 5—in what is deemed to be the competition's biggest showdown ever.

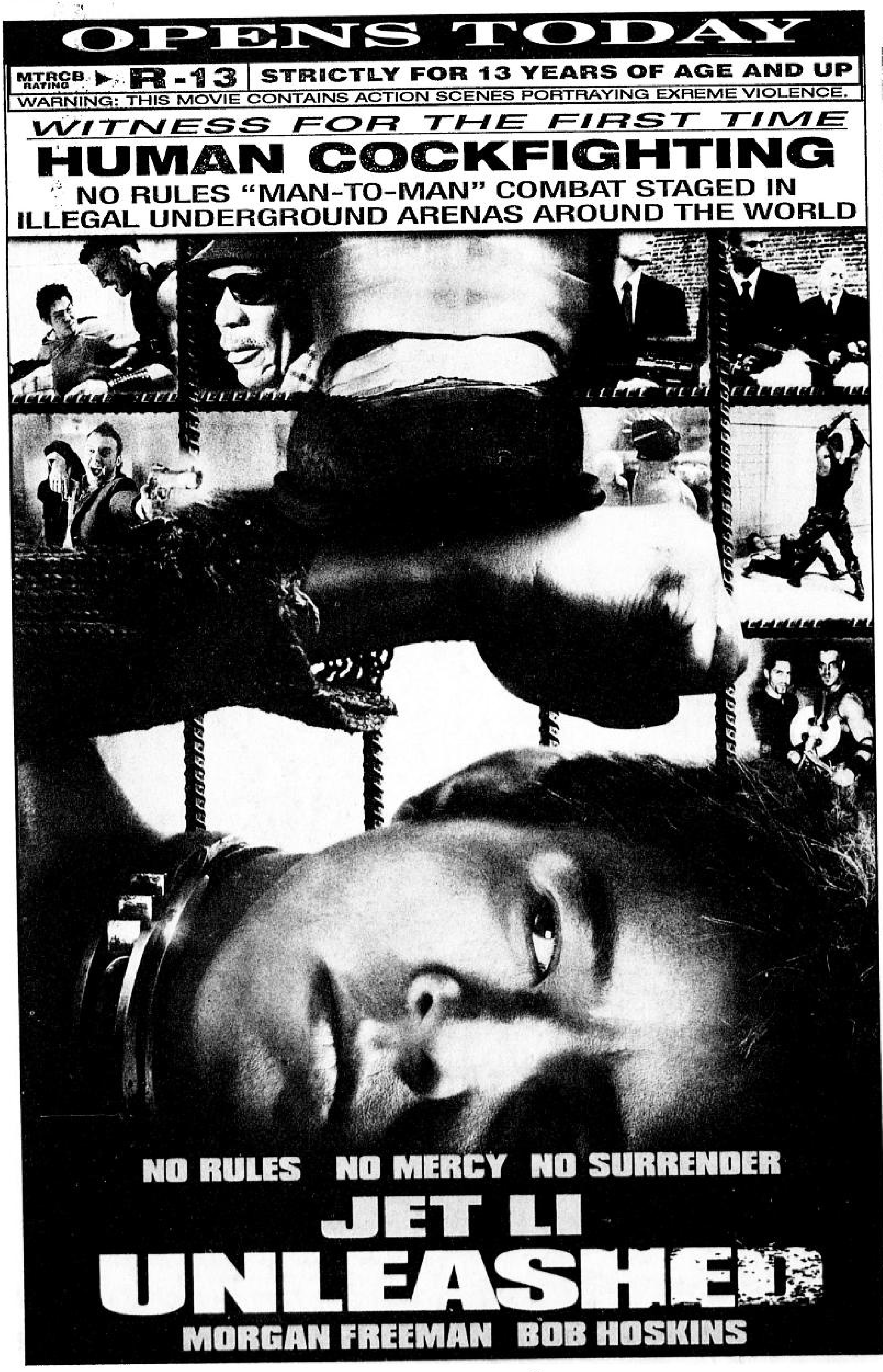
Tomorrow, the most-awaited grand finale airs live, at 8:30 a.m. on ABC 5 from the Kodak Theater in Hollywood (prime time telecast at 10 p.m.)

Carrie, a 22-year-old college senior from Checotah, Oklahoma, has apparently been the viewers' favorite from the start, never having been in the bottom three. But Bo's a cappella performance of Badlands' "In a Dream" last week seems to have catapulted him to the front-runner position.

The 29-year-old rocker from Helena, Alabama, floored the audience and the judges in what is now being considered the performance of the season.

On the other hand, Carrie gave the audience chills when she did Roy Orbison's "Crying."

The two-hour season finale tomorrow will feature the 10 finalists, including Nadia Turner, Anwar Robinson, Constantine Maroulis and Vonzell Solomon. Previous winners Kelly Clarkson, Ruben Studdard and Fantasia Barrino will also perform together in a big production number.


OPENS TODAY
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
WARNING: THIS MOVIE CONTAINS ACTION SCENES PORTRAYING EXREME VIOLENCE.
WITNESS FOR THE FIRST TIME
HUMAN COCKFIGHTING
NO RULES "MAN-TO-MAN" COMBAT STAGED IN ILLEGAL UNDERGROUND ARENAS AROUND THE WORLD
NO RULES NO MERCY NO SURRENDER
JET LI
UNLEASHED
MORGAN FREEMAN BOB HOSKINS

SHANG CINEPLEX

① STAR WARS III
MTRCB: GP
10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

② STAR WARS III
MTRCB. GP
12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9 00

③ HOUSE OF WAX
MTRCB: R-13

④ UNLEASHED
MTRCB. R-13

PREMIERE THEATRE STAR WARS III
MTRCB: GP 1.00, 3 50, 6 40, 9.30

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.
Please call first for SEATS AVAILABILITY

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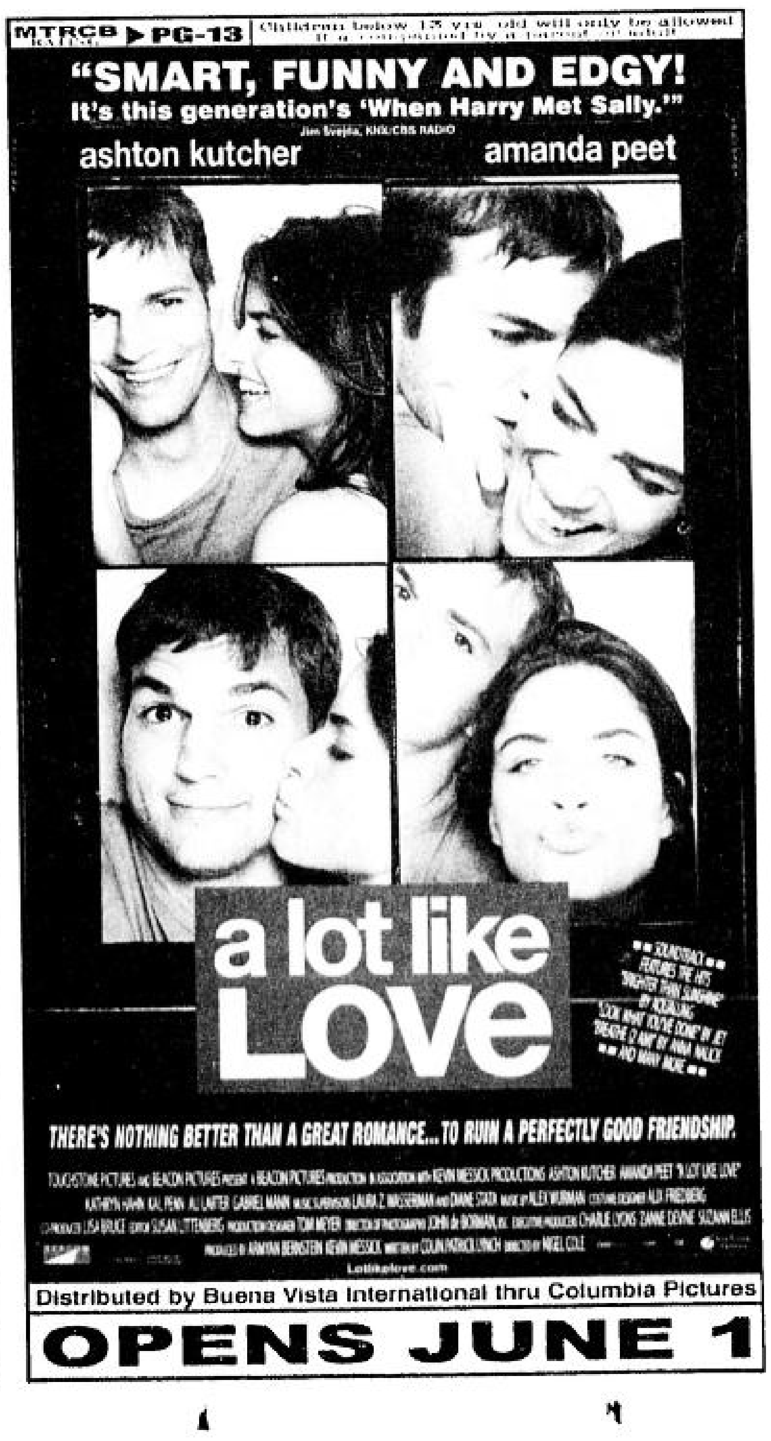

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"SMART, FUNNY AND EDGY! It's this generation's 'When Harry Met Sally.'"
Jim Svejda, KNX/CBS RADIO
ashton kutcher
amanda peet
a lot like Love
SOUNDTRACK FEATURES THE HITS "BRIGHTER THAN SUNSHINE" BY AQUALUNG "LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE" BY JET "BREATHE (2 AM)" BY ANNA NALICK AND MANY MORE
THERE'S NOTHING BETTER THAN A GREAT ROMANCE...TO RUIN A PERFECTLY GOOD FRIENDSHIP.
Alotlikelove.com
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures
OPENS JUNE 1

Belgian brothers rule Cannes

CANNES, France—There was Darth Vader, breathing heavily as he marched down the red carpet. Then came Sharon Stone, posing for the paparazzi again and again in a golden gown or feather boa.

This year's Cannes Film Festival, which wrapped up Sunday, brought plenty of glitz, glamor and Hollywood moments. But the stars of the final soiree were two Belgian brothers who make small, socially conscious films about people struggling just to get by.

The Dardenne brothers' "The Child" won the top award Saturday at the festival, which celebrates stars and small art house filmmakers with equal gusto. Every year, Cannes carefully mixes glitz and grit, critic-pleasers and crowd-teasers, to come up with something for everyone.

For sheer fan hysteria, this year nothing topped the Cannes showing of "Star Wars: Episode III—Revenge of the Sith."

Outside the festival palace May 15, Darth Vader's breathing blasted from giant speakers. And Natalie Portman stunned fans by showing up with her head shaved for an upcoming role in a sci-fi thriller.

"Star Wars" didn't compete at Cannes. But it broke box office history by selling more than $50 million in tickets in a single day in the United States alone.

Not for multiplex

"The Child," the realistic, wrenching story of a petty crook suddenly faced with fatherhood, isn't one for the multiplex. Even in Europe, it's not likely to draw huge crowds. Some 70 percent of ticket sales here are for American movies.

But a win at Cannes can nonetheless bring bigger audiences and help independent filmmakers maintain their artistic freedom.

"We haven't come back down to earth yet," a beaming Jean-Pierre Dardenne said after winning the award with his brother, Luc.

The Dardennes already took Cannes' top award six years ago, with "Rosetta." Their new Palme d'Or catapulted them into elite company. The only other two-time winners are Shohei Imamura of Japan, Bille August of Denmark, Francis Ford Coppola of the United States and Sarajevo-born Emir Kusturica.

As jury president this year, Kusturica had the tough task of getting nine people—including US author Toni Morrison, Mexican actress Salma Hayek, French filmmaker Agnes Varda and Spanish actor Javier Bardem—to reach agreement.

Overlooked

Jim Jarmusch's "Broken Flowers," starring Bill Murray as a middle-aged Lothario, took second place. Another critical favorite, David Cronenberg's "A History of Violence," with Viggo Mortensen as a small-town dad protecting his family from mobsters, was overlooked.

Tommy Lee Jones' feature film debut, "The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada," played at the end of the festival and surprised critics for its power. Jones won Best Actor, and Mexican writer Guillermo Arriaga took the screen writing prize. *AP*

BELGIAN directors, brothers Luc Dardenne, right, and Jean-Pierre Dardenne, show their second Palme d'Or. AP

Time 'unranks' the greatest 100 films of all time

NEW YORK—A list of the greatest films of all time without "North by Northwest?" No "Annie Hall," "Bicycle Thief" or "Apocalypse Now"?

Take a deep breath and relax. This is supposed to be fun.

SCORSESE and De Niro have the most entries.

For fun

The movie critics for Time magazine, Richard Schickel and Richard Corliss, have compiled an unranked list of the 100 greatest films. It was posted Sunday on www.Time.com. Included are traditionally acclaimed flicks like "Lawrence of Arabia," "Casablanca" and "Citizen Kane," as well as more atypical choices like "Finding Nemo," "Star Wars" and the 2002 Brazilian gang story, "City of God."

Disagree? Schickel says that's the idea.

"100 lists are fun to discuss, fun to argue over," he said. "I don't think anybody should say, 'That's it, that's the final 100!' Stuff changes. Life changes."

Recent films on the list include Pedro Almodovar's "Talk to Her," the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy and, of course, "Pulp Fiction."

All the original reviews from Time will be linked on the subscription website.

The most popular director turned out to be Martin Scorsese, who has three films on the list. Scorsese's frequent actor of choice, Robert De Niro, leads actors with five.

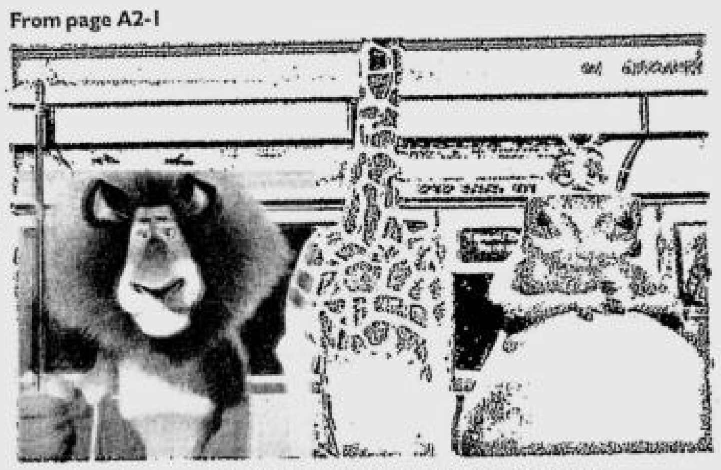
Compromise

Since Schickel and Corliss also have divergent tastes, much of the finalized list is one of compromise.

In Monday's issue of the magazine, the two critics also name the best film from each decade since Time began: "Metropolis" (1927), "Dodsworth" (1936), "Citizen Kane" (1941), "Ikiru" (1952), "Persona" (1966), "Chinatown" (1974), "Decalogue" (1988), "Pulp Fiction" (1994) and "Talk to Her" (2002). *AP*

OPENING THIS WEEK

From page A2-1



nection, but our oblivious troupe plod on and on and on . . .

Critic James Berardinelli, writing for the website movie-reviews.colossus, fumed: "Acting is not a high priority for the director . . . The members of the cast are better known for their looks . . . than their thespian skills. [Hilton] was obviously hired for reasons that have nothing to do with her ability to recite dialogue. To be fair, [Hilton] can [deliver] her lines with more conviction than Steven Seagal or Jean-Claude Van Damme."

The Hollywood Reporter was particularly harsh: "[She's] so bad she steals the show."

Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun Times was more diplomatic: "She does exactly what she is required to do in a movie like this, with all the skill, admittedly finite, that is required." (Opens May 25.)

Madagascar

Directed by Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath and Conrad Vernon
Featuring the voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Cedric the Entertainer, and Jada Pinkett-Smith

SUMMARY: Here's another fish-out-of-water concept given a broader zoological spin. Pampered animals from the New York City Zoo are shipped back to Africa by well-meaning activists. The poor creatures are marooned on Madagascar, an island off the southeast coast of the Dark Continent. Madagascar is significant, storytelling-wise, because of the "near-lack of large animals (like lions)" on the island. The shipwrecked "urban" animals are forced to fend for themselves and "survive in the wild," with hilarious results, as expected. Stiller lends his voice to Alex the Lion; Rock is Marty the Zebra; Schwimmer is Melman the Giraffe; and Pinkett-Smith is Gloria the Hippo. It's produced by DreamWorks Animation SKG, the same team behind "Shrek 1 and 2" and "Shark Tale." (Opens May 27.)

GRADED A BY THE CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD

"...there is laughter galore in this film.."

"...not only is it entertaining, it is also intelligent..."

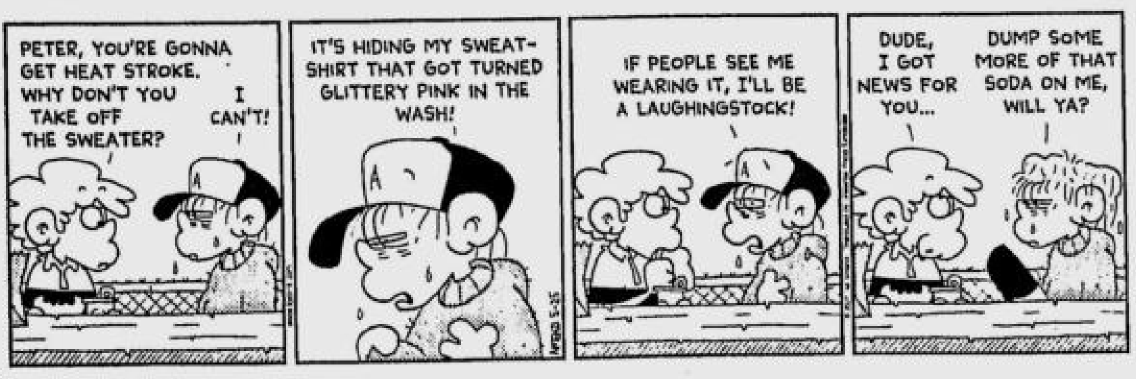
"...Robin Padilla delivers the best performance in his career...
From beginning to end, Padilla is very effective
-- even brilliant in his scenes."
- Butch Francisco (Philippine Star)

"La Visa Loca is a should-see production for lovers of
Filipino movies that come to bear on local realities..."
- Nestor U. Torre (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

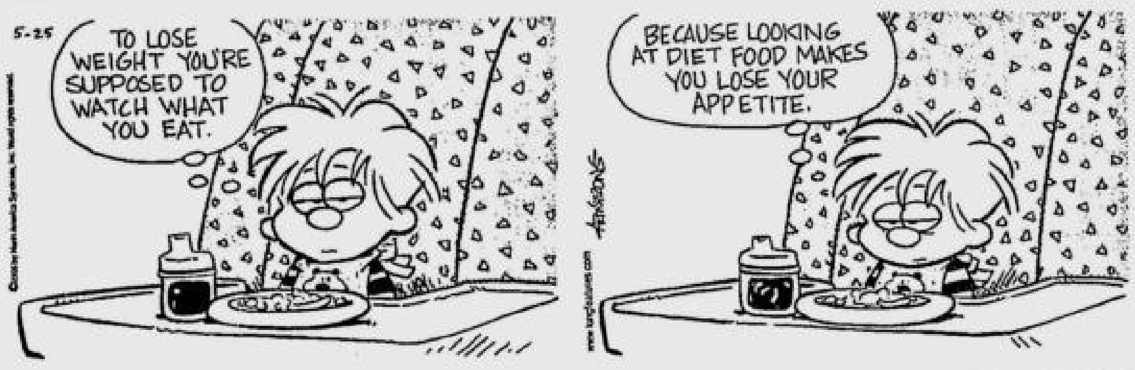
GUSTO MAG-AMERIKA.
AYAW NG AMERIKA.
U.S. VISA
DENIED

UNITEL PICTURES
PRESENTS
ROBIN PADILLA JOHNNY DELGADO AND RUFA MAE QUINTO
La Visa Loca
PARA SA MGA NALOLOKANG MAG-AMERIKA
A MARK MEILY FILM
A TONY GLORIA PRODUCTION
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SHARON CUNETA
OPENS TODAY!
RATED PG-13

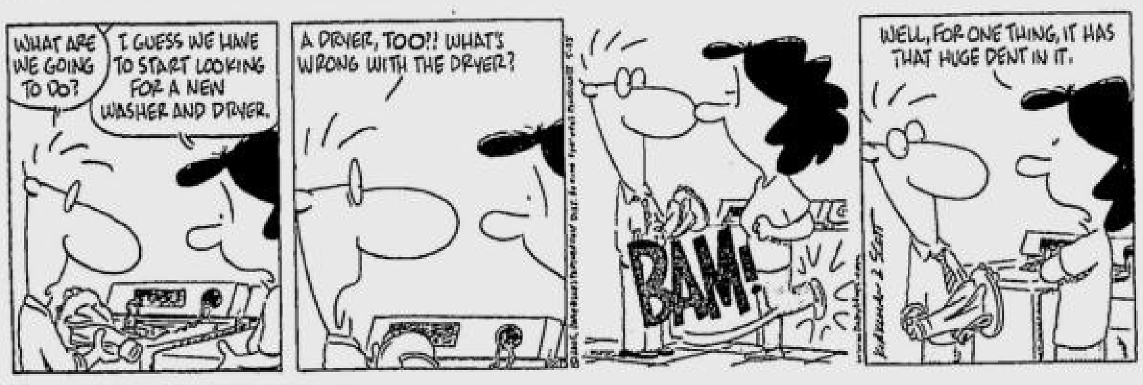
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


PETER, YOU'RE GONNA GET HEAT STROKE. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OFF THE SWEATER?
I CAN'T!
IT'S HIDING MY SWEATSHIRT THAT GOT TURNED GLITTERY PINK IN THE WASH!
IF PEOPLE SEE ME WEARING IT, I'LL BE A LAUGHINGSTOCK!
DUDE, I GOT NEWS FOR YOU...
DUMP SOME MORE OF THAT SODA ON ME, WILL YA?

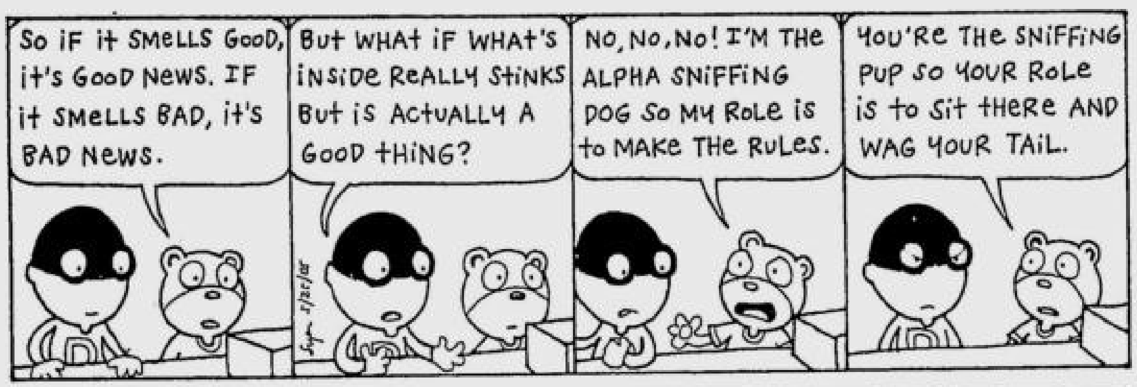
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


5-25
TO LOSE WEIGHT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WATCH WHAT YOU EAT.
BECAUSE LOOKING AT DIET FOOD MAKES YOU LOSE YOUR APPETITE.

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
I GUESS WE HAVE TO START LOOKING FOR A NEW WASHER AND DRYER.
A DRYER, TOO?! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE DRYER?
BAM!
WELL, FOR ONE THING, IT HAS THAT HUGE DENT IN IT.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


So if it smells Good, it's Good News. If it smells BAD, it's BAD News.
But what if what's inside really stinks But is actually a Good thing?
No, No, No! I'm the alpha sniffing dog so my role is to make the rules.
You're the sniffing pup so your role is to sit there and wag your tail.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: There's a no-nonsense attitude about you. You're tough and you're capable. You have strong ideals and high standards. You will work hard to perfect whatever you need to know. You often fight for a cause. The year ahead is full of exciting beginnings. You're definitely up for it!
Birthdate of: Mike Myers, comic actor; Robert Ludlum, author; Anne Heche, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Whatever you buy today will be practical and reasonably priced, and it will probably last a long time. This is an excellent day for future financial planning.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You don't feel frivolous about anything today. You want to get down to work. You're most concerned with the practical aspect of things.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's easy to put duty before pleasure today. You feel frugal and judicious. You might deal with the government and large institutions. If so, you'll make a sensible impression!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Someone older or more experienced can give you good advice today. Quite possibly, it's the other way around, and you are being the guru to someone else.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a good day to impress your boss with cost-saving suggestions. You might see a sensible, better way of doing things at work. (There's always a better mousetrap.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is an excellent day to study anything at school or to put your mind to learning a new task. You have the patience and the diligence necessary to keep your mind on your subject.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good day to define the responsibilities for someone or something. It's also an excellent day to share things with others because you see what should be correctly done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a good day for serious discussions with others. You might want to define the division of labor or the division of responsibilities about something.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You can easily do detailed work for long periods of time today. Your powers of concentration are excellent!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): If you work in the arts, or you want to master a particular skill or trade, today is the perfect day to practice your technique. You'll pay attention to detail. You'll have the patience and endurance to keep trying to improve.

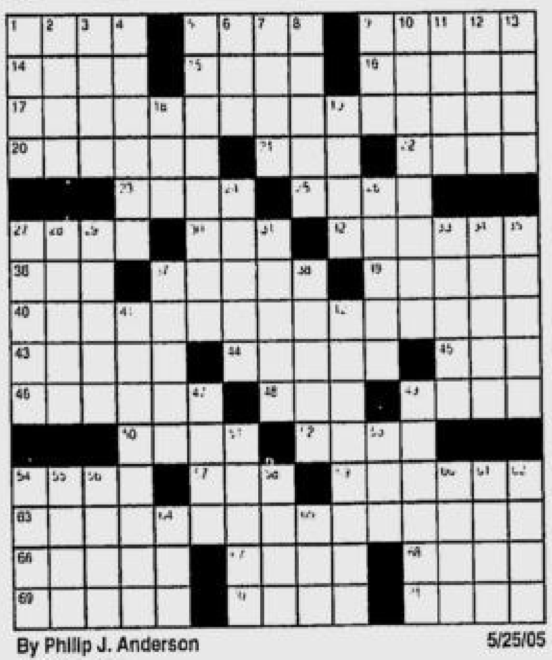
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good day to make long-range plans about real estate. It's also an excellent day to do repairs at home or where you live or work.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your mind is concerned with practical, long-range ideas today. You want to be sensible and you want to be thrifty. You're not into fooling around today. You want to get down to business!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Approximate amounts
5 Gloomy aura
9 __ Ababa
14 Ms. Fitzgerald
15 Tissue additive
16 "Johnny B. __"
17 Not up to snuff, in the PGA
20 Alaska buyer
21 "The Name of the Rose" writer
22 Witticism
23 Bump into
25 Boxcar rider
27 Fifth of MXXX
30 __-jongg
32 Carreras and Pavarotti
36 French king
37 Buenos __
39 Condor's nest
40 Not up to snuff, at the JCS
43 Visually striking abstract style
44 Sully
45 UFO crew
46 Catherine of "Full Frontal"
48 Inc. in Ipswich
49 Otherwise
50 Shrinking Asian sea
52 Slugger Sammy
54 San Francisco tower
57 Get-up-and-go
59 "Gil Blas" writer
63 Not up to snuff, at NOAA
66 Purloined
67 Writer Sillitoe
68 Thompson or Lazarus
69 Nonmalignant growth
70 Cloth hole
71 Stopover

DOWN
1 Dict. meanings
2 Opposite of aweather
3 Huffed and puffed
4 Italian sausage
5 Widespread disease
6 Math subj.
7 Earring setting
8 Parasite
9 Gone by
10 Man from Wall Street?
11 Dull-witted one
12 Lupino and Tarbell
13 Spanish painter
18 Indignation
19 Take spoils
24 78-card deck
26 Beauty's mate
27 Shepherd's staff
28 Car choice
29 Curriculum __ (mini bio)
31 Of blood
33 Bay window
34 Mob melees
35 Feel
37 Pursuing
38 Jimmy of "N.Y.P.D. Blue"
41 Showily
42 Habitually lazy
47 Deeply engrossed
49 Island west of Chile
51 "Gypsy Love" composer
53 Body of water
54 Pointed end
55 Aware of
56 Sacred image
58 Legendary soccer player
60 Alas!
61 Pearls of wisdom
62 QED part
64 Elected off.
65 Pallid



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
5/25/05

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

F	L	A	K	■	E	N	A	C	T	■	T	R	E	K
L	I	M	E	■	C	A	R	L	O	■	R	I	P	E
O	V	E	R	T	H	E	T	O	P	■	A	G	E	R
P	E	N	N	A	C	■	S	T	I	T	C	H	E	R
■	■	■	E	L	L	A	■	S	C	O	T	T	■	■
M	I	L	L	I	O	N	S	■	S	A	I	G	O	N
A	D	E	■	A	N	N	E	S	■	D	O	U	S	E
R	I	F	F	■	S	A	R	A	H	■	N	A	I	L
I	O	T	A	S	■	M	A	L	E	S	■	R	E	L
E	T	H	I	C	S	■	L	E	G	E	N	D	R	Y
■	■	A	L	O	H	A	■	M	E	R	E	■	■	■
M	O	N	S	T	E	R	S	■	M	U	L	L	E	T
A	L	D	A	■	B	O	T	T	O	M	L	I	N	E
C	L	E	F	■	A	S	I	A	N	■	I	R	O	N
H	A	R	E	■	T	E	R	R	Y	■	S	A	L	T

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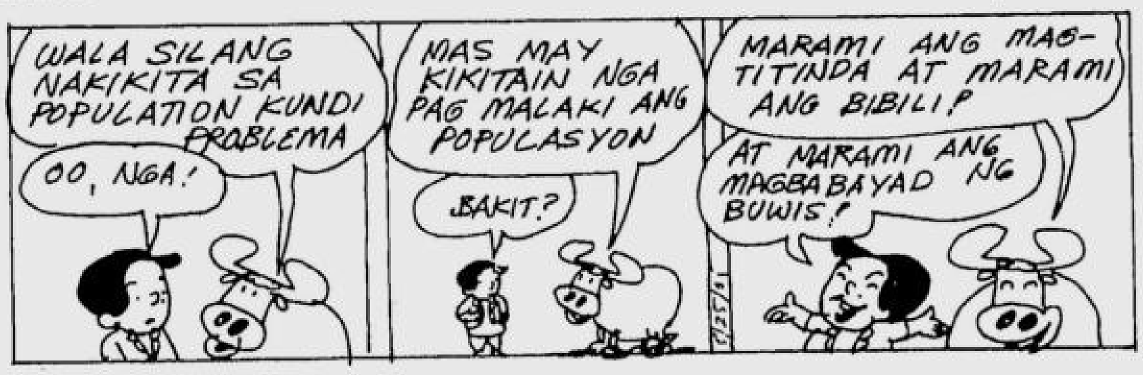
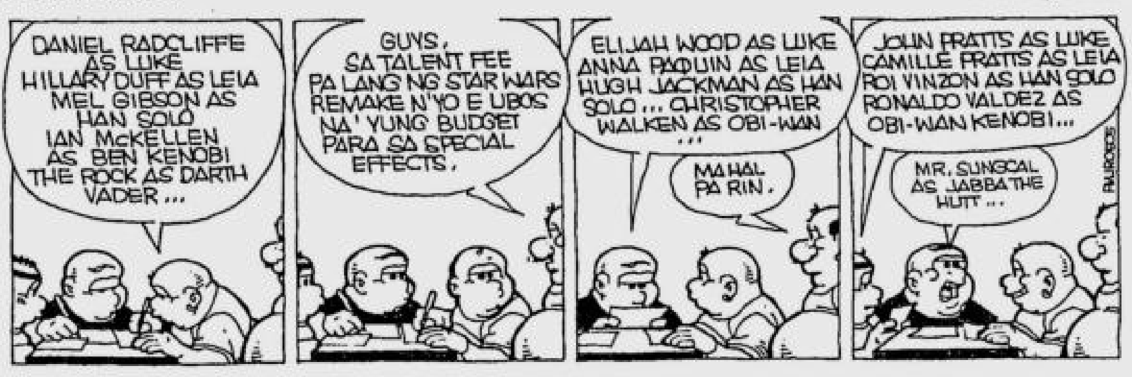
5/25/05

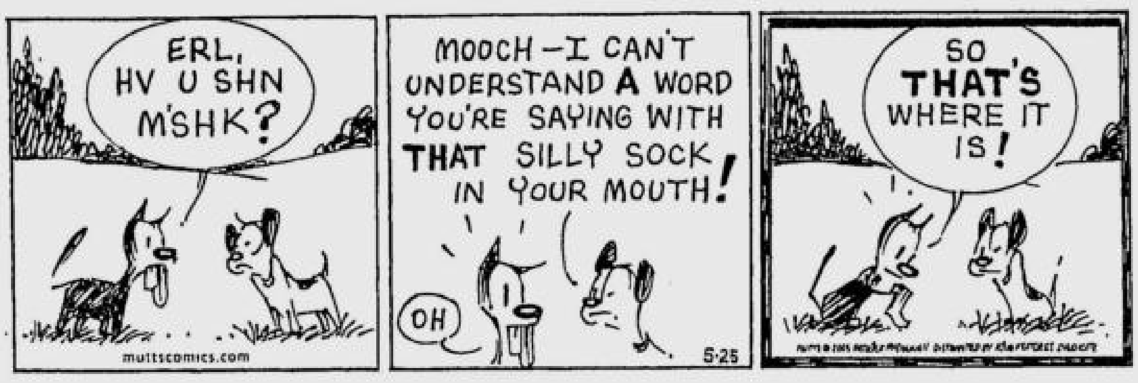
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


WALA SILANG NAKIKITA SA POPULATION KUNDI PROBLEMA
OO, NGA!
MAS MAY KIKITAIN NGA PAG MALAKI ANG POPULASYON
BAKIT?
MARAMI ANG MAGTITINDA AT MARAMI ANG BIBILI!
AT MARAMI ANG MAGBABAYAD NG BUWIS!

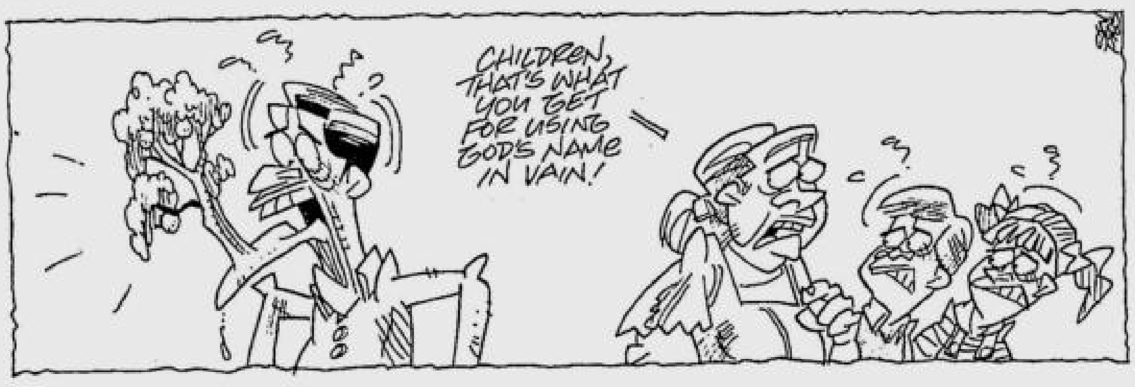
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


DANIEL RADCLIFFE AS LUKE HILLARY DUFF AS LEIA MEL GIBSON AS HAN SOLO IAN McKELLEN AS BEN KENOBI THE ROCK AS DARTH VADER...
GUYS, SA TALENT FEE PA LANG NG STAR WARS REMAKE N'YO E UBOS NA 'YUNG BUDGET PARA SA SPECIAL EFFECTS.
ELIJAH WOOD AS LUKE ANNA PAQUIN AS LEIA HUGH JACKMAN AS HAN SOLO... CHRISTOPHER WALKEN AS OBI-WAN...
MAHAL PA RIN.
JOHN PRATTS AS LUKE CAMILLE PRATTS AS LEIA ROI VINZON AS HAN SOLO RONALDO VALDEZ AS OBI-WAN KENOBI...
MR. SUNGCAL AS JABBA THE HUTT...

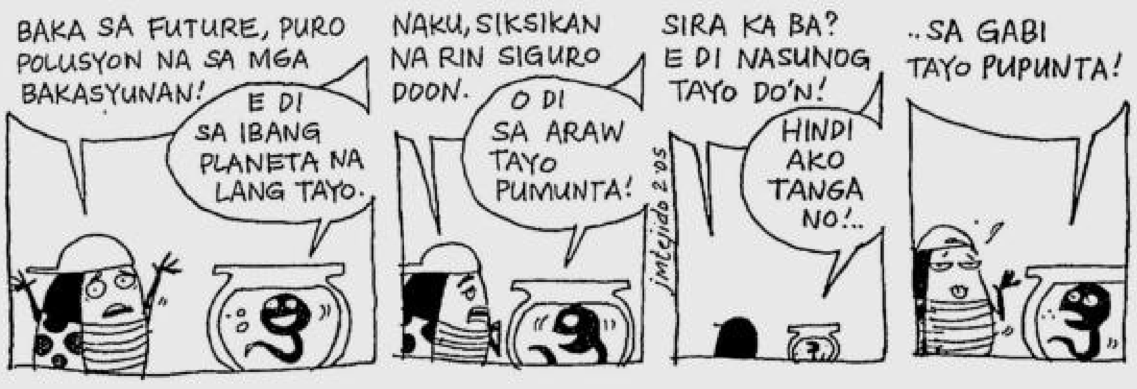
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ERL, HV U SHN M'SHK?
MOOCH—I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYING WITH THAT SILLY SOCK IN YOUR MOUTH!
OH
SO THAT'S WHERE IT IS!
muttscomics.com
5-25

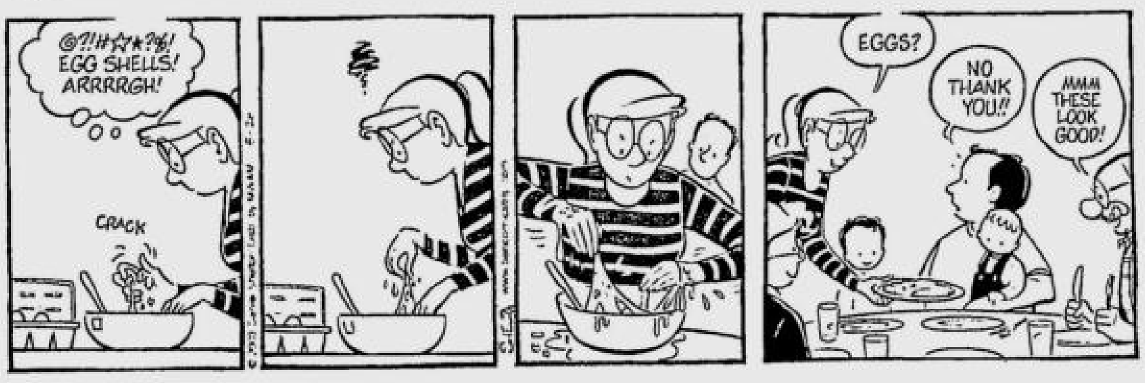
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


CHILDREN, THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR USING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN!

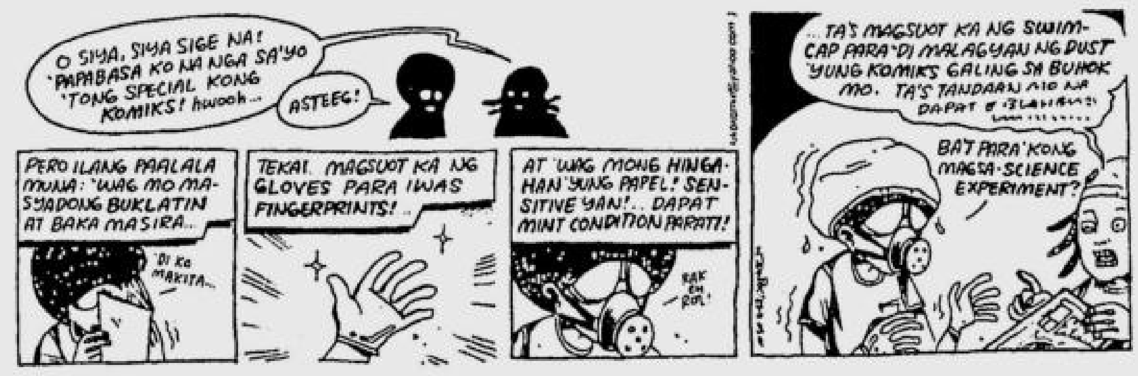
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BAKA SA FUTURE, PURO POLUSYON NA SA MGA BAKASYUNAN!
E DI SA IBANG PLANETA NA LANG TAYO.
NAKU, SIKSIKAN NA RIN SIGURO DOON.
O DI SA ARAW TAYO PUMUNTA!
SIRA KA BA? E DI NASUNOG TAYO DO'N!
HINDI AKO TANGA NO!..
..SA GABI TAYO PUPUNTA!
jmtejido 2'05

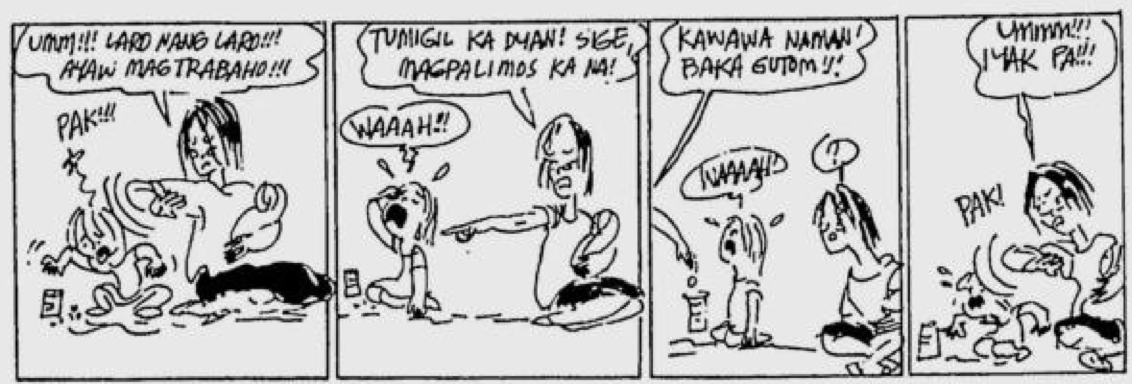
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


@?!#☆*?%! EGG SHELLS! ARRRRGH!
CRACK
EGGS?
NO THANK YOU!!
MMM THESE LOOK GOOD!

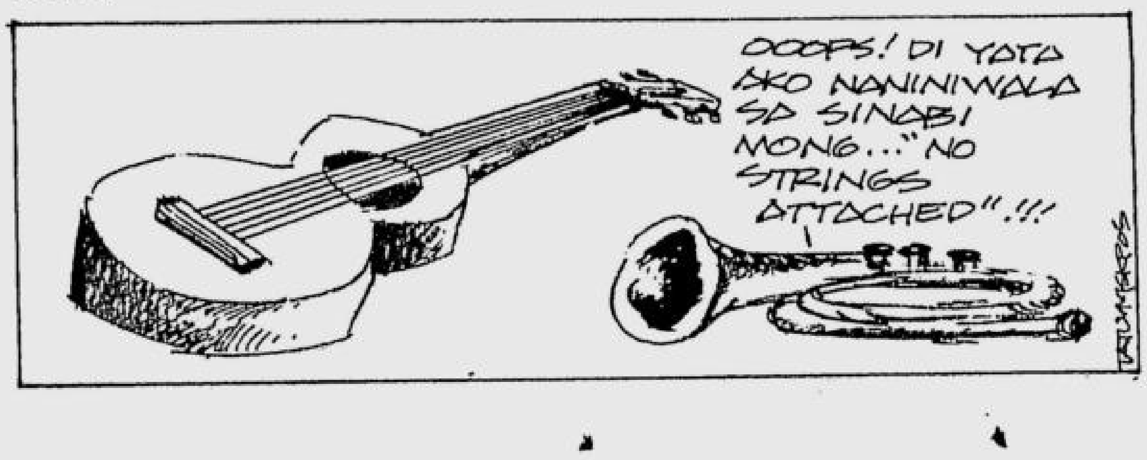
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


O SIYA, SIYA SIGE NA! 'PAPABASA KO NA NGA SA'YO 'TONG SPECIAL KONG KOMIKS! hwooh...
ASTEEG!
PERO ILANG PAALALA MUNA: 'WAG MO MASYADONG BUKLATIN AT BAKA MASIRA..
DI KO MAKITA..
TEKA! MAGSUOT KA NG GLOVES PARA IWAS FINGERPRINTS!..
AT 'WAG MONG HINGAHAN 'YUNG PAPEL! SENSITIVE 'YAN!.. DAPAT MINT CONDITION PARATI!
...TA'S MAGSUOT KA NG SWIMCAP PARA 'DI MALAGYAN NG DUST 'YUNG KOMIKS GALING SA BUHOK MO. TA'S TANDAAN MO NA DAPAT ...
BA'T PARA 'KONG MAGSA-SCIENCE EXPERIMENT?

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


UMM!!! LARO NANG LARO!!! AYAW MAGTRABAHO!!!
PAK!!!
TUMIGIL KA DYAN! SIGE, MAGPALIMOS KA NA!
WAAAH!!
KAWAWA NAMAN! BAKA GUTOM!!
WAAAH!
?
Ummm!! IYAK PA!!
PAK!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OOOPS! DI YATA AKO NANINIWALA SA SINABI MONG..."NO STRINGS ATTACHED"!!!

Modestly aside, slowly but Shirley and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: How is the vote for the new Pope coming along there at the Vatican?

Field reporter: Well, the first few voting session have been indecisive. So, the people here are still waiting for more smoke signals!

(Hey, cue those Indians, quick!)

* * *

Host: What should we do if we are bitten by a dog? Any new medical solutions?

Guest: No, just the usual one, which has been proven effective for a long time now: If bitten by a dog, get injected right away with anti-rabbit!

(Whee!)

* * *

Host: Who's your favorite female singer today?

Guest: Without a doubt, Bouncy Knowles!

(*Double* whee!)

* * *

Host: What's the latest on the rally there?

Any new developments?

Field reporter: Yes, some rallyists have been able to enter the building, despite the gwards outside.

(*Ay*, gwards *daw, o!*

* * *

Host: How do you spend your weekends?

Guest: On weekends, if I have no schedule, like to go out on town.

(—Where?)

* * *

Host: What do women have to do to keep their figures trim despite the passing years?

Guest: You should exercise your arm and chest muscles, especially, *para hindi maging saging ang iyong* breast!

(Yes, we have no bananas—today!)

* * *

Host: When is your new movie opening?

Guest: *Abangan niyo po*, coming soon *na po, matagal pa po.*

(—Make up your mind!)

* * *

Host: What is the best beach for you?

Guest: Of course, Boracay.

Host: Why? What makes it unique?

Guest: Of course, Boracay's powder-fine-like sand!

(Oh, *that*!)

* * *

Host: If our viewers want to become successful in business like you, what should they do?

Guest: You have to have a rapporteur with your workers!

(Are you sure, rapporteur?)

* * *

Host: What special dish are you cooking for us today?

Guest cook: I will demonstrate for your viewers a delicious Lamb of Loin!

(Uh, please repeat?)

* * *

Host: What makes your business so successful?

Guest: Well, modestly aside...

(Stop right there!)

* * *

Host: What is your goal in your beauty and hair salon?

Guest: To help our customers be *mas* beautiful was they can be!

(*Magkulot ka na lang kaya?*)

* * *

Host: When we have a new project we are not sure of, what is the best way to proceed?

Guest: If you're asking me, you should first proceed slowly but Shirley.

(No, we aren't asking you, we're asking—Shirley!)

'If bitten by a dog get injected right away with anti-rabbit'

'Expat Adventure'

EVERY Sunday at 10:45 p.m., Studio 23 telecasts the adventure reality series, "Expat Adventure." Produced by **Kitchie Benedicto** and directed by **Bert de Leon**, the show involves expats in unique challenges and local customs and traditions, and takes them and viewers to exotic locales.

In the premiere episode shown last May 15, the expats went to Batangas, went on an awkward carabao ride, and got their dose of the famous Batangas Brew.

Nina in concert

ON MAY 27 and 28, soul siren **Nina** performs at Music Museum in "Nina Just Wanna Have Fun." As the concert's title indicates, Nina aims to let her hair down and have a great time with her guests, **Nyoy Volante, Lemuel dela Cruz** and her brother **King**. Call 721-6726.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) STAR WARS III GP
2 (DOLBY) STAR WARS III GP
3 (DOLBY) HOUSE OF WAX R13
4 (DOLBY) UNLEASHED R13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) STAR WARS III GP

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 STARWARS: EPISODE-3
2 UNLEASHED
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 HOUSE OF WAX

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274
1 LA VISA LOCA
2 STARWARS: EPISODE-3
3 UNLEASHED

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) UNLEASHED
5 STARWARS: EPISODE-3

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 UNLEASHED
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
6 HOUSE OF WAX

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) RING OF NIBELUNGS
2 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 (SDDS) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
3 (DTS) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
4 (GOLD / DTS) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
5 (GOLD DOLBY) UNLEASHED
6 (GOLD / SDDS) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
7 (GOLD DOLBY) HOUSE OF WAX
8 LA VISA LOCA
9 BIKINI OPEN
10 AMITYVILL HORROR

Araneta Center
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LA VISA LOCA
BIKINI OPEN
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
HOUSE OF WAX
AMITYVILLE HORROR
STAR WARS - EPISODE III
UNLEASHED

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 STAR WARS - EPISODE III
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 UNLEASHED
4 HOUSE OF WAX
5 AMITYVILLE HORROR

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 STARWARS: EPISODE-3
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 RESERVED

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 STARWARS: EPISODE-3

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 (DTS ES) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
4 AMITYVILL HORROR

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 STARWARS: EPISODE-3
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 (DOLBY) AMITYVILL HORROR
4 (DTS) STARWARS: EPISODE-3

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 (DOLBY) SAMARA (RING -2)
4 (DTS) XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BIKINI OPEN
2 WEDDING DATE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
2 (DOLBY) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
3 (DOLBY) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
4 (DOLBY) HOUSE OF WAX

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 LA VISA LOCA
2 (DTS) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
3 (DOLBY) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
4 RING OF NIBELUNGS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 LA VISA LOCA
2 (DOLBY) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
3 (DTS) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
4 RING OF NIBELUNGS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 (DOLBY) SAMARA (RING-2)

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 (DOLBY) XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
4 (DTS) THE INTERPRETER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 STARWARS: EPISODE-3
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 (DOLBY) BIKINI OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) BIKINI OPEN
2 SINFUL NIGHT
3 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
4 (DTS) AMITYVILL HORROR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 (DTS) LA VISA LOCA
4 RING OF NIBELONG
5 ALONE IN THE DARK

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 BIKINI OPEN
2 WEDDING DATE
3 (DTS) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
4 (DOLBY) THE INTERPRETER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 WEDDING DATE
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 ONG BAK
4 STARWARS: EPISODE-3

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 UNLEASHED
2 LA VISA LOCA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SM CINEMA movietime

Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, Jada Pinket and David Schwimmer lend their voices to the zany animals of Central Park Zoo in
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MADAGASCAR

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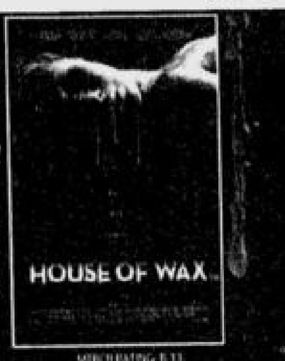
VISITUS@ www.smcinema.co



MTRCB RATING R-13
THERE'S A REASON THEY LOOK SO REAL.
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SM Megamall May 28, 2-5pm
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GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium cinema
1. STAR WARS III
11:00 FS / 11:30 MF / 2:10 / 4:50 / 7:30 9:40 LFS / 10:10 LMF / 12:20 END
2. STAR WARS III
11:40 FS / 12:10 MF / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10 10:20 LFS / 11:00 LMF / 1:10 END
633-8878

sm megamall cinema 1
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
12:10 FS / 12:40 MF / 3:40 / 6:40 9:10 LFS / 9:20 LMF / 12:05 END
633-1901

sm cebu cinema
CINEMA 1: STAR WARS: EPISODE III
12:55 FS / 1:09 MF / 3:46 / 6:23 8:43 LFS / 9:00 LMF / 11:20 END
CINEMA 3: STAR WARS: EPISODE III
10:50 FS / 11:00 MF / 1:39 / 4:16 / 6:53 9:13 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:50 END
(032) 231-3876

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 UNLEASHED
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 HOUSE OF WAX
5 BIKINI OPEN
6 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED
9 RESERVED
10 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
11 TRUMPETS
12 LA VISA LOCA

sm city fairview
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 xXx 2 : THE NEXT LEVEL
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
5 UNLEASHED
6 LA VISA LOCA
7 HOUSE OF WAX
8 POOH HEFFALUMP MOVIE
9 BIKINI OPEN
10 CAN THIS BE LOVE
11 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
12 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

sm city north edsa
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 RESERVED
4 BIKINI OPEN
5 LA VISA LOCA
6 AMITYVILLE HORROR
7 STAR WARS: EPISODE III
8 UNLEASHED

sm city sta. mesa
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 UNLEASHED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 BIKINI OPEN
7 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
8 AMITYVILLE HORROR
9 LA VISA LOCA
10 ANG LAGUSAN

sm city southmall
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 UNLEASHED
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
7 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
8 LA VISA LOCA
9 BIKINI OPEN
10 HOUSE OF WAX

sm city manila
1 UNLEASHED
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
5 IN GOOD COMPANY
6 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
7 CAN THIS BE LOVE
8 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
9 LA VISA LOCA
10 xXx 2 : THE NEXT LEVEL
11 ARE WE THERE YET?
12 BIKINI OPEN

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 UNLEASHED
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 HOUSE OF WAX

sm city bicutan
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 UNLEASHED

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 BIKINI OPEN
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 LA VISA LOCA

sm city baguio
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 THE WEDDING DATE

sm city batangas
1 BIKINI OPEN
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 THE WEDDING DATE

sm city marilao
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

sm city bacoor
1 AMITYVILLE HORROR
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 UNLEASHED
4 HOUSE OF WAX
5 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
6 LA VISA LOCA
7 BIKINI OPEN
8 CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city dasmariñas
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 LA VISA LOCA
3 IN GOOD COMPANY
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

sm city lucena
1 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
2 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 THE WEDDING DATE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 STAR WARS : EPISODEIII
2 RESERVED
3 STAR WARS : EPISODEIII
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
6 BIKINI OPEN
7 LA VISA LOCA
8 UNLEASHED

sm city iloilo
1 BIKINI OPEN
2 RESERVED
3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4 SAHARA
5 LA VISA LOCA
6 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
7 RESERVED
8 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

sm city davao
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
5 LA VISA LOCA
6 UNLEASHED

sm city cagayan de oro
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 LA VISA LOCA
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

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AND THE
HUNDRED ACRE WOOD GANG
ARE TOGETHER AGAIN IN...
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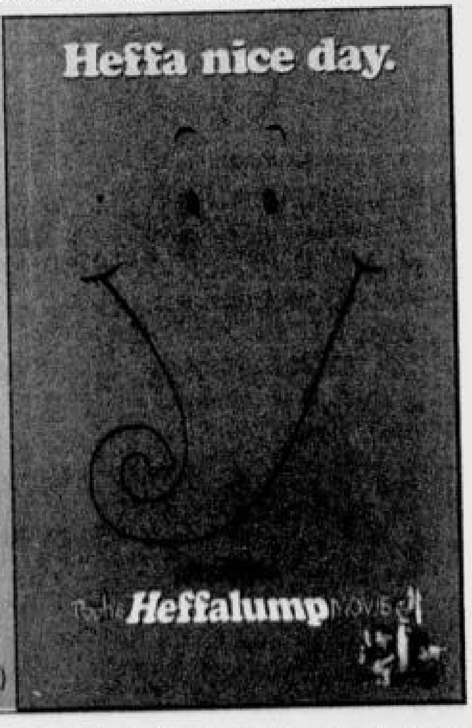

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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 STAR WARS Episode III • THX	6 BIKINI OPEN
2 STAR WARS Episode III	7 IN GOOD COMPANY
3 HOUSE OF WAX	8 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 UNLEASHED	9 STAR WARS Episode III
5 LA VISA LOCA	10 AMITYVILLE HORROR

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 STAR WARS Episode III	
2 AMITYVILLE HORROR	5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 IN GOOD COMPANY	6 LA VISA LOCA
4 HOUSE OF WAX	7 UNLEASHED

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 AMITYVILLE HORROR	5 STAR WARS Episode III
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	6 STAR WARS Episode III
3 BIKINI OPEN	7 UNLEASHED
4 HOUSE OF WAX	8 LA VISA LOCA

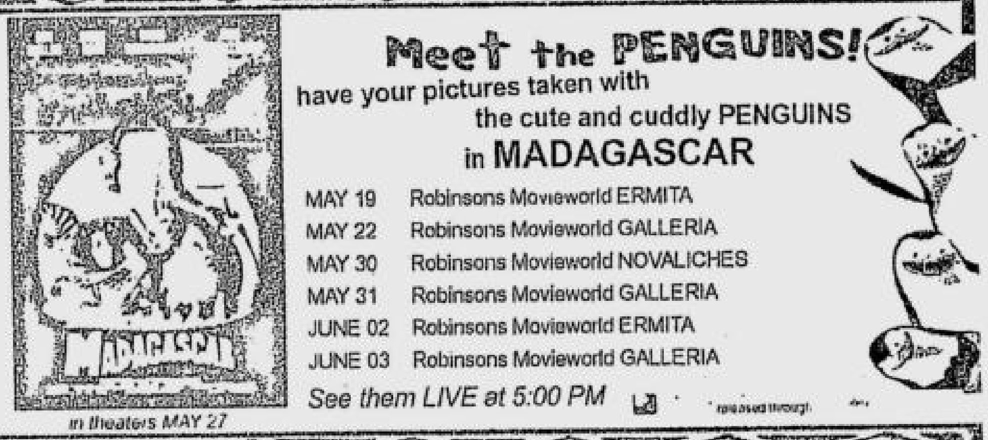
NOVALICHES 936-3229/31

1 STAR WARS Episode III	5 STAR WARS Episode III
2 LA VISA LOCA	6 BIKINI OPEN
3 UNLEASHED	7 RESERVE
4 HOUSE OF WAX	8 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-6378

1 STAR WARS Episode III	3 UNLEASHED
2 LA VISA LOCA	4 HOUSE OF WAX

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2875	CAINTA 240-4661
1 STAR WARS Episode III	1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 LA VISA LOCA	2 LA VOSA LOCA
3 SAMARA RING 2	3 BIKINI OPEN
4 TAGOS SA LAMAN	4 HOUSE OF WAX



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MAY 22	Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
MAY 30	Robinsons Movieworld NOVALICHES
MAY 31	Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
JUNE 02	Robinsons Movieworld ERMITA
JUNE 03	Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA

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STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907	LIPA (043) 757-3684 (043) 312-5870
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 STAR WARS Episode III	2 LA VISA LOCA
3 LA VISA LOCA	3 THE PACIFIER
4 BIKINI OPEN	4 BIKINI OPEN
5 THE INTERPRETER	5 THE WEDDING DATE

DASMARINAS (046) 852-3125 (046) 416-4332	ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 STAR WARS Episode III	1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 LA VISA LOCA	2 LA VISA LOCA
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	3 BIKINI OPEN
4 BIKINI OPEN	4 THE INTERPRETER
5 BOSO	

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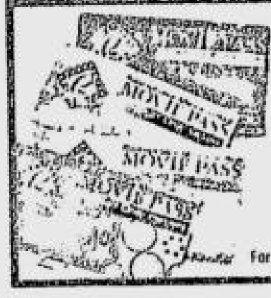
3 HOUSE OF WAX	3 LA VISA LOCA
4 STAR WARS Episode III	4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 LA VISA LOCA	5 STAR WARS Episode III
6 IN GOOD COMPANY	6 UNLEASHED

BACOLOD [illegible]	ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 SAHARA	1 THE INTERPRETER
2 STAR WARS Episode III	2 STAR WARS Episode III
3 LA VISA LOCA	3 LA VISA LOCA
4 THE WEDDING DATE	4 SAHARA
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	5 THE WEDDING DATE
6 GUESS WHO	6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN



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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 STAR WARS EP. 3	2 UNLEASHED	3 THX STAR WARS EP. 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR	5 LA VISA LOKA	6 STAR WARS EP. 3	7 HOUSE OF WAX
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	2 STAR WARS EP. 3		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX STAR WARS EP. 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX STAR WARS EP. 3 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 HOUSE OF WAX GUARANTEED SEATS	4 UNLEASHED GUARANTEED SEATS	5 STAR WARS EP. 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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	3 UNLEASHED	4 HOUSE OF WAX	5 STAR WARS EP. 3	
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The box office hit "Ocean's Twelve"—$125-million sequel to Academy Award-winning director Steven Soderbergh's "Ocean's Eleven"—starring George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, Matt Damon, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Andy Garcia, Don Cheadle and Bernie Mac is back on VCD (P275) and DVD (P475), from Warner Home Video.

'Minor' Awit Awards

From page A2-8

tence of these players assures a longer lifetime for the industry. I wish they would be more competitive, try different ways of doing things and never rest on their laurels."

C as in surprised

Cayabyab expressed surprise that the CD recording "Great Filipino Love Songs" which he did with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra was reportedly Number 1 in the sales charts of Tower Records last year. "I have to admit *na wala talagang* audience *ang* classical music *dito*," he said. "So for the CD we had to be really creative. *Nakakagulat ang* response *kasi hindi naman siya* pop or mainstream."

Valera was cited for "his outstanding body of work as a singer-composer, and [for] leadership in the music industry." Best known for writing hit songs for the likes of Sharon Cuneta, Rico Puno and other Pinoy pop singers, Valera eventually became a successful artist in his own right.

Crossing over

"*Ang mga kanta ang nagiging* ID *ng isang* generation," Valera said. "*Nakakatuwang isipin na ang isang kanta, e, nakakatawid sa ibang* generation, *halimbawa kapag nagugustuhan ng nanay yung kinakanta ng anak. 'Yung* pop music *natin ngayon magiging* part *din ng kultura natin*."

In his acceptance speech, Valera thanked the following: "*Ang asawa ko, yan ang dahilan bakit masarap ang buhay. Ang mga anak ko, sila ang dahilan para mabuhay pa ako. At ang industriya ng musikang Pilipino, ibig sabihin pala tinatanggap ninyo ako kahit paano*."

The Awit Awards are given by the Philippine Association of the Recording Industry. Tomorrow's program is set 7 p.m. at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

DURIAS: Grateful to the industry "that still believes"

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CINEMA 3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN PG 13
CINEMA 4 STAR WARS: EPISODE III - GP 12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20
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KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 12:40 / 3:40 / 6:40 / 9:40
HOUSE OF WAX 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
AMITYVILLE HORROR 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
STAR WARS - EPISODE III 11:50 / 1:00 / 1:10 / 2:50 / 4:00 4:10 / 5:50 / 7:00 / 7:10 8:50 / 10:00 / 10:10
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❶ STAR WARS - EPISODE III 11:55 / 2:50 / 5:45 / 8:40
❷ LA VISA LOCA 11:20 / 1:35 / 3:50 / 6:05/ 8:20
❸ UNLEASHED
❹ HOUSE OF WAX 12:40 / 3:10 / 5:40 / 8:10
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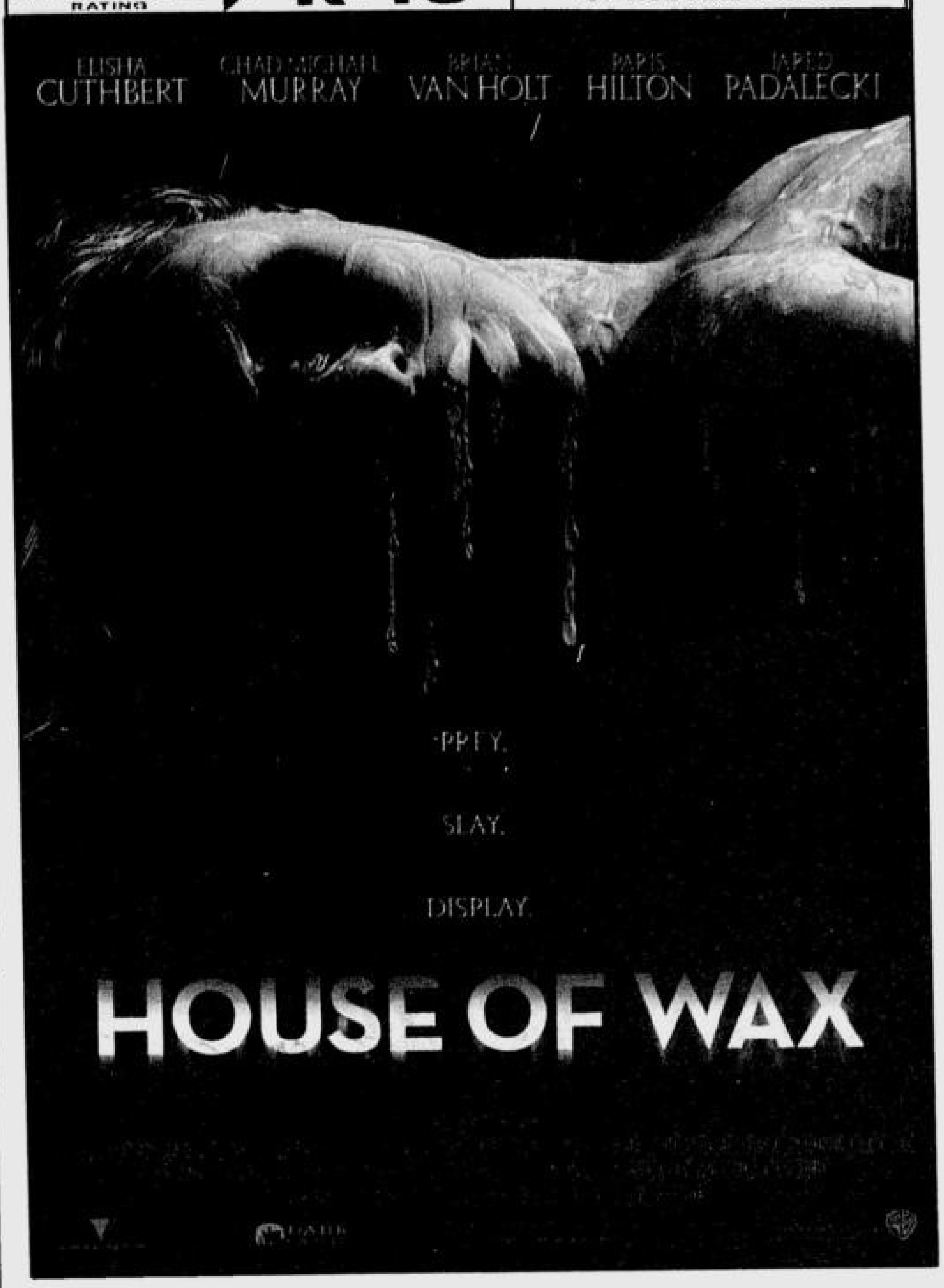

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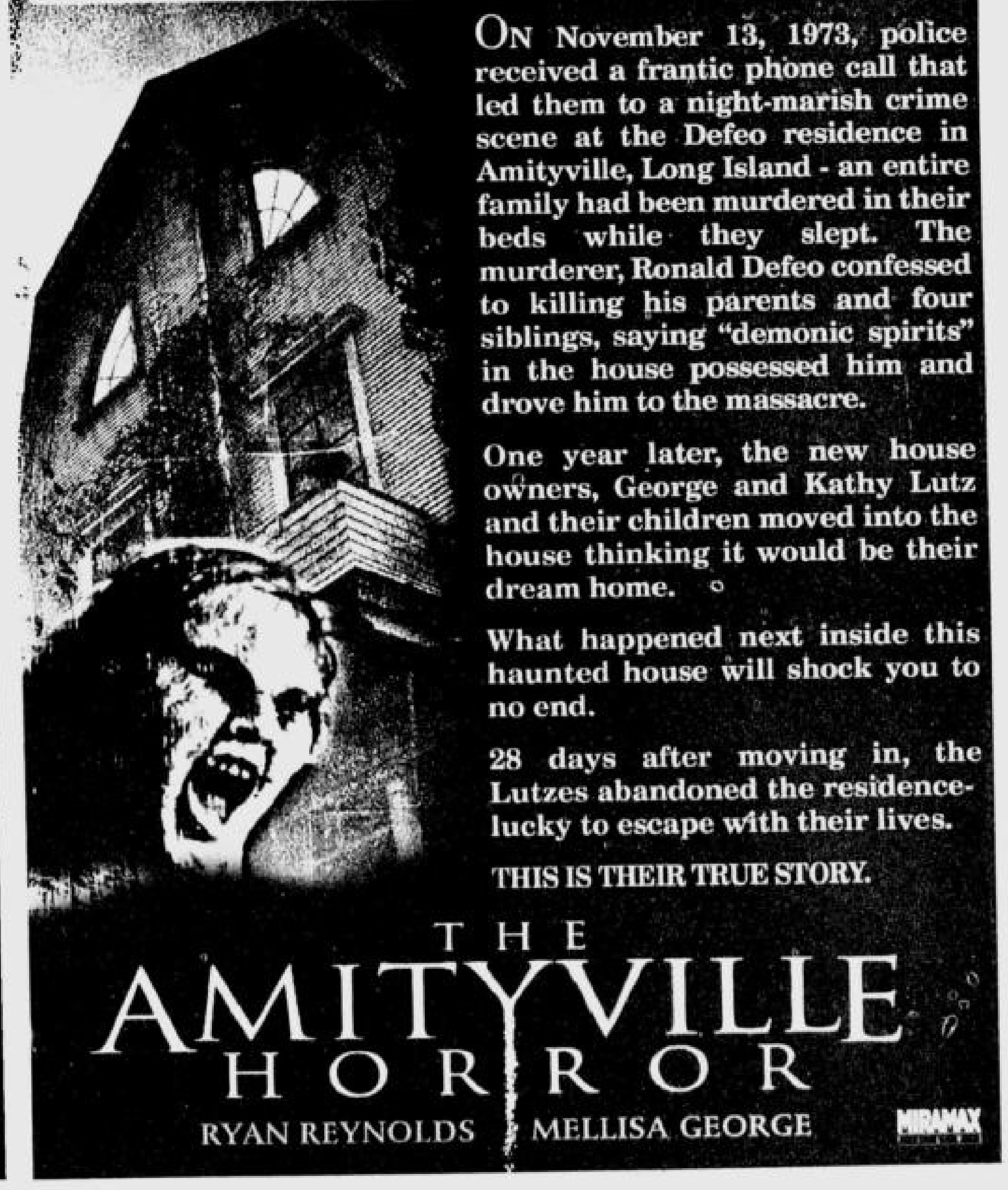

ON November 13, 1973, police received a frantic phone call that led them to a night-marish crime scene at the Defeo residence in Amityville, Long Island - an entire family had been murdered in their beds while they slept. The murderer, Ronald Defeo confessed to killing his parents and four siblings, saying "demonic spirits" in the house possessed him and drove him to the massacre.

One year later, the new house owners, George and Kathy Lutz and their children moved into the house thinking it would be their dream home.

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OPENS JUNE 8

UNLEASHED

When men fight like wild animals

Jet Li as a cage fighter in UNLEASHED

In the film UNLEASHED, Jet Li plays Danny, a fighter trained to attack and kill on command.

Treated like an animal by mob boss Bart (Bob Hoskins) Danny wears a collar that acts almost as an "on off" switch. While wearing the collar, he's as soft and mellow as a Mrs. Beasley doll. But remove the collar and Danny becomes a twisting, contorting, whirling-dervish, complete with 12-foot high leaps and wall-walks that would put Lionel Richie to shame.

Eventually separated from his master, Danny meets up with Sam (Academy Award winner Morgan Freeman), a blind piano tuner who not only teaches him what it's like to be a real human, but also begins to delve into Danny's psyche to examine his bloody, violent past.

An all-out, action-packed, no-holds-barred martial arts flick, it brings the house down with its incredible fight sequences.

Yuen Woo Ping's action choreography deserves mention here.

The film introduces the violent world of CAGE FIGHTING

Cage fighting aka human cockfighting

Cage fighters have been described as the modern day equivalent of Roman gladiators, whose brutal battle for victory is considered the ultimate test of mind and body.

This violent sport is sweeping across the world in illegal underground arenas, drawing thousands of spectators.

Cage fights are bloody messes and the losers often end up permanently crippled. The combatants lock horns in an.octagonal cage, surrounded by a 1.5 metre (5ft) high fence, and once battle is under way it is virtually a case of anything goes as they attempt to punch, kick, slap or wrestle their way to victory. There are No rules. No mercy and No surrender.

The movie made a spectacular debut at the US boxoffice last weekend. It was the biggest Jet Li opener in America.

The international market were more spectacular. It was the top movie in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, China and France where the film was shot.

A join producton between France's Europa and Focus Features, a division of Universal Pictures.• ADVT.

'Minor' Awit Awards not lightweight

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

MR. C: Happy to see young musicians

VALERA: Songs are a generation's ID

AN OVERWHELMED Jay Durias, chief songwriter and bandleader of South Border, romped away with four of the 10 trophies on the preliminaries of the 18th Awit Awards held last week at the Crowne Plaza Galleria in Pasig.

Although winners in the major awards have yet to be announced (tomorrow), the "minor" categories in which Durias bested other finalists are by no means lightweight: Best Inspirational Recording ("Rainbow"); Best Regional Recording ("Usahay"); Best Vocal Arrangement ("Best That I Can"); and Best Engineered Recording ("Rainbow").

In the other categories, Vehnee Saturno won for Best Christmas Recording ("Kapuso sa Pasko"); Ryan Cayabyab for Best Musical Arrangement "Tuwing Umuulan at Kapiling Ka"); Slapshock, Team Manila and Xander Angeles for Best Album Package ("Novena"); and Bamboo for the People's Choice Favorite Song 2005 ("Noypi").

Cayabyab and the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra also received an award as People's Choice Favorite Artist 2005, while Rey Valera was bestowed the Dangal ng Musikang Pilipino Lifetime Achievement Award.

Full of love

Durias, whose writing, performing and producing credits likewise figure prominently in at least six more categories including Best Ballad, Best R&B, Best Dance, Best Performance By A Group, Best Producer and Song of the Year, told INQUIRER Entertainment that the recognition meant a lot after the trials his band recently went through—referring to former South Border vocalist Luke Mejares who left to pursue a solo career.

"We're full of blessings and love right now. I'm so grateful to an industry that still believes in us," Durias said.

Cayabyab, who thought of his People's Choice Favorite Artist trophy as just a "side award," nevertheless considers the Awit Awards an event that livens up the industry. "I'm especially happy this year because there are so many young musicians in the scene," he said. "The exis-

'MINOR'/ A7

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STAR WARS: EPISODE III GP 12:30,3:30,6:30,9:30	HOUSE OF WAX R13 11:55,2:20,4:45,7:10,9:35	STAR WARS: EPISODE III GP 1:30,4:30,7:30,10:30

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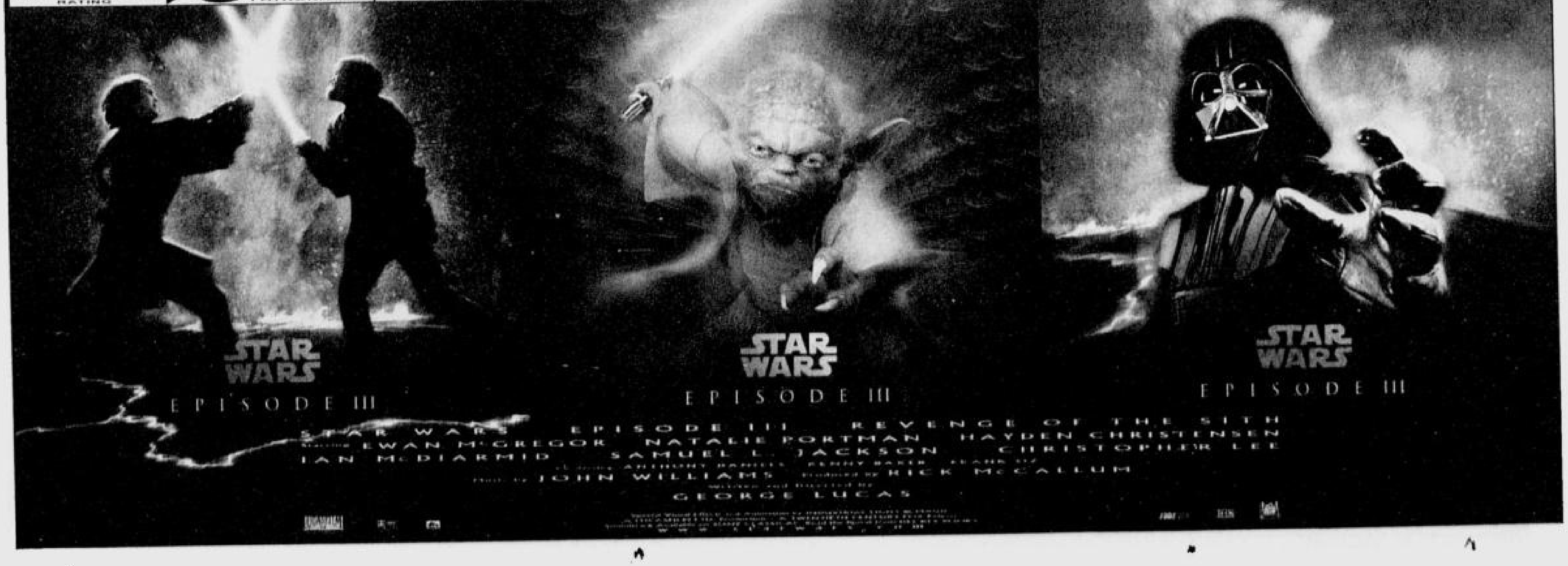

STAR WARS
EPISODE III
STAR WARS
EPISODE III
STAR WARS
EPISODE III
STAR WARS EPISODE III REVENGE OF THE SITH
EWAN McGREGOR NATALIE PORTMAN HAYDEN CHRISTENSEN
IAN McDIARMID SAMUEL L. JACKSON CHRISTOPHER LEE
ANTHONY DANIELS KENNY BAKER
JOHN WILLIAMS
Produced by RICK McCALLUM
Written and Directed by
GEORGE LUCAS

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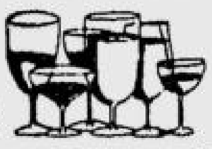
WHAT'S INSIDE

SMC enhances NatFoods offer /B2

Lights, camera, cut! COCKTALES/B3



Malaysian firm gets control of Hopewell Crown /B4

Meralco sees delay in final leg of refund /B5

HSBC remains bullish on RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

HONG KONG—The chief of British banking giant HSBC Plc. is bullish on the business prospects in the Philippines given the government's recent progress in dealing with its fiscal problems and the economy's strong growth.

In a briefing with visiting journalists from the Philippines and India, HSBC group chief executive Stephen Green added that the two Asian countries would play an important role in the bank's business process "resourcing."

"The Philippines and and India both have very obvious advantage in the international context—high level of education and (widespread use of the) English language," he said.

The bank's business process outsourcing unit in the Philippines is smaller than similar operations in India but Green said "over time it will grow."

Early last year, HSBC invested in its first Philippine backroom unit handling business processing. Located at the Northgate Cyberzone in Alabang, it was the group's eighth group service center in Asia.

The new hub is expected to employ 4,000 by the end of this year to hit a full capacity of 2,000 seats. Plans to establish a second unit with the same capacity were earlier announced.

Green said the bank, which operates in 77 countries across the globe, was finding the Philippine market becoming "increasingly satisfactory."

"The Philippines is providing some good opportunities. I think the growth performance of the country and the way in which the fiscal position is improving now somewhat gives us a lot of interesting opportunities and strength for the Philippine economy in terms of international competitiveness," Green said.

He noted that the government's successful raising of $750 million from the global bond market, an offering wherein HSBC was among the underwriters, was an "acknowledgment by the global community of the strengthening of the fisal position."

Aside from the passage of the value-added tax (VAT) reform package, the Philippines achieved a lot of milestones recently: collections by the Bureau of Internal Revenue hit a record high, the balance-of-payments surplus is rising,

HSBC/B2

Smart, Globe lose bid to stop Sun's 24/7

By Clarissa S. Batino

SUN Cellular of taipan John Gokongwei has won its fight against giant rivals Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc. after the National Telecommunications Commission issued an order allowing phone companies to continue offering unlimited price deals within the network.

The NTC effectively lifted a 2002 circular requiring wireless players to maintain a network quality that would connect 93 out of 100 calls on the first attempt and would not prematurely drop 95 out of 100 calls.

Telcos are now allowed to set their own standards for every innovative price offer.

NTC Chair Ronald Solis said the agency had to do a tough balancing act of weighing what the consumers wanted and what the regulator must do. In the end, he said public interest and consumer convenience became the primary consideration.

He said "an inflexible application of the (performance standard) circular" could deprive consumers of choices and discourage competition.

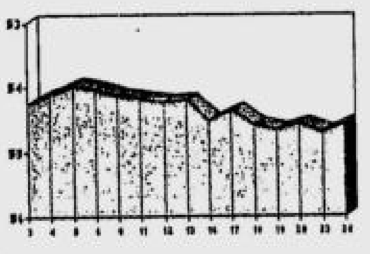
The NTC allowed Sun Cellular and other players to continue their unlimited price of-

SMART/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 54.565 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., May 24, 2005

¥ 107.46 = $ 1

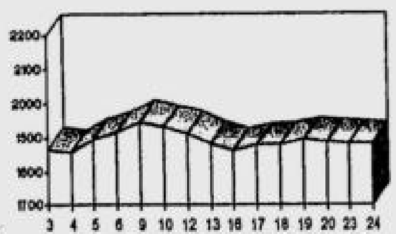
As of 5 p.m., May 24, 2005

GOLD: $ 422.00-422.50

per ounce Hong Kong, May 19, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 0.1% lower in listless session

SHARES ended marginally lower in a generally listless session yesterday, as investors remained sidelined in the absence of fresh leads to perk up buying interest.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed down 2.40 points, or 0.1 percent, at 1,881.08, after shedding 0.2 percent Monday.

Blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, falling 0.3 percent to close at P1,450, in step with the 0.5-percent loss suffered by the company's American depositary receipts in New York Monday.

Other losing stocks were San Miguel, Ayala Corp. and its affiliate, Globe Telecom. Partly offsetting the market's losses were Jollibee and First Holdings.

"The market was so lethargic. The expanded VAT law has been signed and that's discounted already, so there's no incentive for the market to go up," said PCCI Securities president Francisco Liboro. *AP*

The *Executives' Meeting of East Asia and Pacific Central Banks*
(EMEAP Group)
which comprises 11 central banks and monetary authorities
in the East Asia and Pacific region, namely:

Reserve Bank of Australia, People's Bank of China

Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Bank Indonesia

Bank of Japan, Bank of Korea

Bank Negara Malaysia, Reserve Bank of New Zealand

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Monetary Authority of Singapore

and Bank of Thailand

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UNCONDITIONAL BID

SMC enhances NatFoods offer

SYDNEY—Southeast Asian food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. has declared its $1.4-billion bid for Australia's National Foods Ltd. unconditional, in a move to win over a major National Foods shareholder.

In a statement to the Australian Stock Exchange, San Miguel noted that New Zealand's Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd., formerly a rival bidder, had said it would accept the Philippines-based food group's bid for its 19-percent stake in NatFoods if the bid was unconditional.

San Miguel has waived a condition of its bid that it receive a minimum of 50 percent of National Foods shares.

It currently has a 36-percent stake in National Foods, including 14.6 percent that will become formal acceptances once the offer is unconditional.

San Miguel made its initial offer for National Foods in December.

ABN Amro is advising San Miguel, while UBS is advising National Foods.

Sources told the INQUIRER that with Fonterra's stake, the conglomerate would corner 56 percent of National Foods.

Its offer to buy National Foods will close on June 10.

Early last month, SMC beat Fonterra in the race for National Foods after Fonterra backed out of its bid to control the dairy company.

Fonterra and SMC have been locked in a six-month long battle for control of National Foods.

SMC offered to buy National Foods at A$1.9 billion, topping Fonterra's A$1.84 billion offer.

SMC increased its offer from the original A$1.78 billion.

Fonterra, on the other hand, withdrew its offer for National Foods and instead agreed to sell its stake in the company.

SMC's A$6.40 offer equals the highest price paid for National Foods shares on the Australian Stock Exchange.

It is also on the high end of National Foods' own board valuation of A$6.01 to $6.55 a share.

The NatFoods acquisition is part of SMCs vision to become a major player in Asia's food and beverage industry.

SMC has also set aside P15 billion in capital expenditures until 2006 which will fund, among others, new beverage plants in Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam. *With a report from Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Smart . . .

From page B1

fers provided they publish the levels of performance standards that they were committing themselves in such promos.

"The popularity of the new and innovative price plans reflect the appreciation that consumers have options that enable them to shop for and choose the price-quality package that best suit their needs," the NTC said in its order.

Signed Monday night, the NTC circular directed telecom players to advertise as to how many attempts out of every 100 should be connected on the first attempt and how many calls out of every 100 should not be dropped in relation to an innovative pricing scheme.

The NTC also ordered these firms to improve after one year their connection and drop call rates by at least 50 percent of the difference between their voluntary standard and the NTC benchmark.

"After two years, operators must meet the NTC's mandated standards of 7-percent grade of service and 5-percent drop call rate," the Commission said in its order.

Bataan park warned against hosting used car importers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TRADE Secretary Juan B. Santos yesterday said his department would stop the government-run Bataan Technology Park Inc. from issuing guidelines that foreign business chambers said "would legitimize the importation of used vehicles."

Santos issued the warning in response to reports that BTPI was enticing investors to set up shop in the zone, which was adjacent to the Subic freeport area, including those involved in the importation of used cars.

Santos said in an interview that the Department of Trade and Industry and the Board of Investments saw BTPI's plan as against national policy considering that the agencies were implementing an incentive program to enhance the automotive sector.

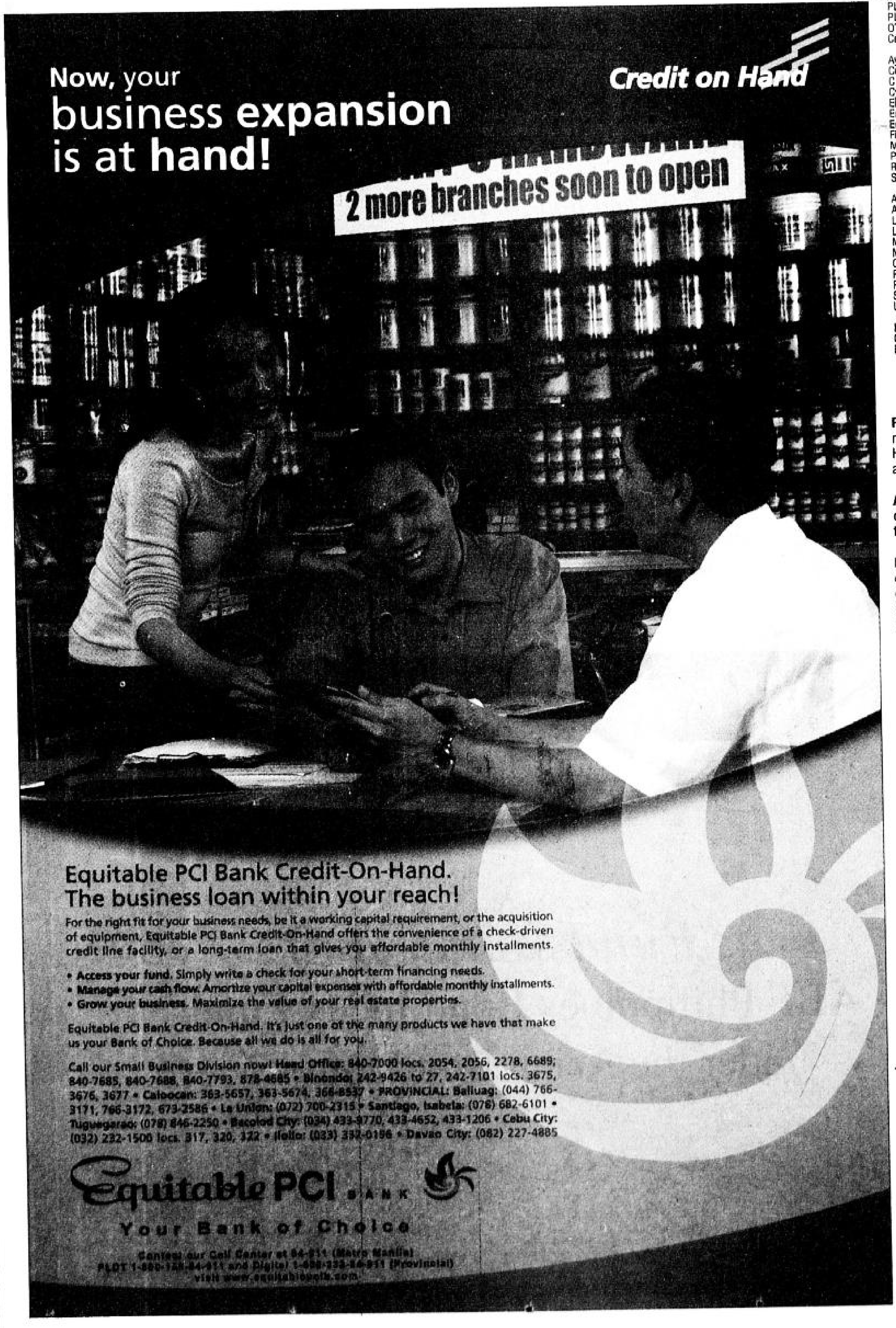
"[Moreover, President Macapagal-Arroyo] issued an Executive Order that imposes an additional specific duty of P500,000 for used vehicles to discourage the importation of used vehicles," the official said.

"As far as right-hand drive vehicles are concerned, we are consistent in our position that this is against the law," he added.

Santos said the DTI was also taking measures "to ensure that [BPTI's did] not progress in pushing a plan that is against the interest of the local industry."

In a statement, the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in the Philippines said it was "seriously concerned" about the plan considering that the local Philippine industry had one of the smallest markets in the region.

The JFC groups the following chambers of commerce: American, Australia-New Zealand, Canadian, European, Japanese and Korean. A seventh member is the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters.



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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 24, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	28.5	28.5	27.5	28	493,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	49.5	48.5	49.5	1,658,100
China Banking Corp.	740	740	740	740	460
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.61	1,920,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	50.5	49.5	50	198,000
International Exch. Bank	19	19	18.75	18.75	50,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	32	31	31.5	473,800
Philippine National Bank	32.5	33	32.5	33	184,000
Security Bank Corp.	27.5	30	27.5	30	304,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	27	27	27	27	135,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	290	292.5	290	292.5	160
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	230,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1680	1690	1680	1690	1,300
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	11,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	1,880,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	830	835	825	830	13,970
Ipeople Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	206,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	3,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.2	370,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1450	1465	1450	1450	201,320
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.71	0.66	0.71	1,120,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	2,400,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	13,700
Manila Electric Co. B	23.5	23.5	23	23	336,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6.1	3,204,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	2,248,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	54,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	26,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	375,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	989,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	33	33	33	33	1,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28	29.5	28	29.5	464,300
Pancake House Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	58.5	58	58.5	64,400
San Miguel Corp. B	84.5	84.5	84	84.5	236,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	2,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	7,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.7	1,470,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.75	4.8	4.75	4.8	255,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	50,000
APC Group Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	970,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.94	3,140,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	3,200,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.3	450,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.56	2.46	2.46	4,762,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	5,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8	8.3	8	8.1	173,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	45.5	44	45	188,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.14	0.15	340,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	20,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.2	90,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	1,587,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	2,630,000
SM Investments Corp.	247	248	246	248	438,670
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	1,280,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	720,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	900,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.26	1.26	566,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	2,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	94,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	4,567,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	70,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	110,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	2,660,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	2,080,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	60,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	4,007,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	8,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4	4	4	4	40,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	410,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.3	3,630,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	11,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	72,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.81	0.84	0.81	0.83	2,680,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.98	2,170,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29	30	29	29	455,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	16,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000

[illegible]

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 27, 4 p.m. at 47/F Antonio delas Alas Executive Dining Hall, RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 30 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

ARIES Prime Resources Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 29, 2 p.m. at Makati City. Stockholders as of May 17 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Manila Water Company Inc.** are Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Gordon A.I. Waters, Antonino T. Aquino, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Delfin L. Lazaro, Aurelio R. Montinola III, Albert L. Jugo, Hiromu Nishimura, Leslie Bell, Cielito F. Habito and Oscar S. Reyes. ***Compiled by Erika A. Sarmiento, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

May 24, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.794407372	1.000000	54.7060
Japan	Yen	0.007383	0.009294	0.5084
United Kingdom	Pound	1.455116	1.831700	100.2050
Hongkong	Dollar	0.102025	0.128429	7.0258
Switzerland	Franc	0.64586	0.813008	44.4764
Canada	Dollar	0.631736	0.795229	43.5038
Singapore	Dollar	0.478934	0.602882	32.9813
Australia	Dollar	0.603273	0.759400	41.5437
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.107237	2.652590	145.1126
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211853	0.266681	14.5891
Brunei	Dollar	0.477494	0.601070	32.8821
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000106	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.019836	0.024969	1.3660
UAE	Dirham	0.216318	0.272301	14.8965
Euro	Euro	1	1.258800	68.8639
Argentina	Peso	0.275357	0.346620	18.9622
Brazil	REAL	0.326715	0.411269	22.4989
Denmark	Kroner	0.134247	0.168990	9.2448
India	Rupee	0.018283	0.023015	1.2591
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209082	0.263193	14.3982
Mexico	New Peso	0.072476	0.091233	4.9910
New Zealand	Dollar	0.562611	0.708215	38.7436
Norway	Kroner	0.12333	0.155248	8.4930
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013356	0.016812	0.9197
South Africa	Rand	0.121879	0.153421	8.3930
Korea	Won	0.000791	0.000996	0.0545
Sweden	Kroner	0.108996	0.137204	7.5059
Syria	Pound	0.015303	0.019264	1.0539
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025315	0.031867	1.7433
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.00037	0.000466	0.0255

HSBC remains . . .

From page B1

the equity market is on an uptrend despite external factors such as rising oil prices, local interest rates remain low because of the very liquid money market, and the influx of migrant remittances is continuing.

Green also said that Southeast Asia, as a whole, had kept its share of world trade even when China was gobbling up more markets, indicating its flexibility to move up the value chain.

"The fact that is has maintained its share of world trade is a testimony to the fundamental strength of the area as a whole," he said.

Lights, camera, cut!

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

HEMORRHAGING ABS-CBN is readying an across-the-board, early retirement program to slash by at least one-fourth the manpower complement of the country's biggest radio-TV network, according to the industry grapevine.

A two-month-salary-for-every-year-of-service package looms as the ballpark incentive figure for the targeted "retireables", but ABS-CBN spokeswoman Maloli Manalastas was quick to caution that the executive committee is still a month away from submitting any package for board approval.

ABS-CBN, which suffered this year its first ever first-quarter loss of more than P114 million since its 1992 public listing, had 4,262 employees and talents as of end-2004, as against GMA Network's 2,370.

The leaner and meaner GMA, on the other hand, saw its first-quarter net income zoom to P400 million, from P246 million in the same period last year.

Faced by rising operating expenses and flat revenues, ABS-CBN this year factored in no bonuses for its new chief executive officer, Luis Alejandro, and four other top officers.

Still, the combined 2005 salary of Alejandro and company is estimated at P63.77 million, as against the P60.17 million (plus P15.04 million in bonuses) in 2004 and P58.29 million (plus P16.6 million in bonuses) in 2003.

Also for the first time, ABS-CBN officers from the rank of managers and higher have been told to expect no bonuses this year as well.

The industry lore is that ABS-CBN, which has one EVP, seven SVPs, and 19 vice presidents, is one top-heavy organization compared to GMA, which has four SVPs but also a number of presidents running its subsidiaries.

GMA board member Joel Marcelo Jimenez said the network has "competitive" executive compensation package but it is the quality of the programming that makes or breaks a network.

And out of the 15 top TV programs monitored nationwide in April, 12 of them belonged to GMA.

Keeping the paper's Standard

OVER at another media outlet, the management of the merged Manila Standard Today will most likely promote columnist Jojo Robles to become the paper's interim editor-in-chief following the hasty departure of industry icon Jullie Yap Daza.

According to the grapevine, the management has decided to appoint Robles to fill up the editorial void left by Daza and the continued absence of the new executive editor of the merged paper, Lourdes Molina-Fernandez, a Today import.

Even the new publisher, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., has not been reporting for work, despite the Standard union already having dropped its industry complaint about his appointment.

According to the grapevine, the management has considered at least two outsiders for Daza's position, but, in the end, decided on an in-house replacement after weighing in competence, compensation, and industrial relations considerations.

Money-go-round

- THE LAST-DITCH talks held last week between Philippine Women's University and

COCKTALES/ B4

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Wage-setting too politicized, says Ecop head

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE EMPLOYERS Confederation of the Philippines yesterday said wage-setting in the country was too politicized even as the minimum daily wage here was already one of the highest in the region at $5.31 a day.

Ecop president Rene Y. Soriano said the group wanted to make the point "amid claims by certain quarters that the wage hike issue was a 'done deal' between the government and [business operators]."

Labor groups have been clamoring for an increase of P125 in the daily minimum wage, but business leaders said they could afford only up to P30 daily.

"Minimum wage increases would continue to be governed by the unruly forces of populist sentiments and political expediency," Soriano said.

"No matter how you consider the economics of wage fixing, you would always end up with a compromise," he added.

Even then, Soriano said market forces should determine changes in wages.

The Ecop chief said that local wages should not be so high since the supply of workers in the country was more than the demand from employers.

"The irony is that, compared to similarly situated Asian countries, the Philippines already has the highest minimum wages rates or entry-level pay for unskilled workers as adjusted to productivity in the region," Soriano said.

According to Ecop data, the minimum wage in Thailand—which was twice more productive than the Philippines—was only at $3.39 a day or almost $2 less than that in Metro Manila.

"Malaysia, which is four times more productive and where thousands of overseas Filipino workers find lucrative employment, has an entry-level wage of $4.22 a day," Soriano said.

He added that entry-level pay was even lower in Vietnam at $0.91 while this was between $0.31 and $1.28 in China.

"Most Asian countries let the market determine wage levels," Soriano said. "Only two other countries have wage-fixing mechanism like what we have here—Malaysia and Thailand.

He said Malaysia could afford to have such mechanism because there was a labor shortage there.

"Amid the pressures in the domestic market and the global economy that both workers and employers are confronted with, what we need is to be able to strike a balance between higher wages and sustainable jobs," he said.

Malaysian firm gets control of Hopewell Crown

By Clarissa S. Batino

CROWN Equities Inc. has sold its controlling 70-percent stake in Hopewell Crown Infrastructure Inc. to Malaysia's MTD Equity Sdn Bhd for P398 million, the company's disclosure to the stock exchange said.

Gordon Wu's Hopewell Holdings used to control Hopewell Crown but it earlier sold the bulk of its stake to Crown Equities leaving for itself a mere 10-percent interest in the company, which was also sold to MTD Equity, Malaysia's second largest toll operator.

Hopewell Holdings entered into an agreement with the government, through the Philippine National Construction Corp., in 1999 to upgrade the South Luzon Expressway. The right to this deal was transferred in 2000 to Hopewell Crown.

Crown Equities said it had the option to subscribe to up to 5 percent of Hopewell Crown's capital stock when the Slex project reached financial closing.

Crown Equities said it had sold 175.135 million shares to MTD Equity for P250 million. At the same time, it received P128 million in reimbursement for its advances to Hopewell Crown.

The company will receive another P20 million from Northeast Development and Acquisitions Corp. as compensation for the termination of a sale purchase agreement entered into in early 2004.

Crown Equities said it had advanced P50.06 million of the P398-million transaction value.

The remaining P347.94 million is payable over 15 months, subject to certain conditions.

Joel Bañares, president of Hopewell Crown, said that MTD Capital had submitted its financial plan to the Philippine National Construction Corp. last May 20.

Canadian-British JV formed to develop oil, gas fields in RP

By Abigail L. Ho

CANADIAN firm Forum Energy Corp. and British company Sterling Energy Plc have formed a joint venture, Forum Energy Plc, to develop oil, gas and coal resources in the Philippines.

Both Forum and Sterling have existing energy assets in the country. These assets will be transferred to the new company in return for pre-negotiated equity stakes, Forum president and chief executive David Robinson said in a statement posted at Forum's official website.

Sterling holds the license for the Geophysical Survey and Exploration Contract (Gsec) 101, which allows it to explore for oil and gas in offshore Northwest Palawan in the South China Sea.

The license covers the Sampaguita gas find, which, according to a recent assessment by PGS Reservoir Consultants (UK) Ltd, has potential gas reserves of around 2.3 trillion cubic feet.

Forum, through its 66.67-percent stake in local firm Forum Exploration Inc., holds Service Contract 40 which covers oil and gas fields, both onshore and offshore, in Northern Cebu, as well as coal operating contracts in Central and Southern Cebu.

All these assets will be transferred to the joint venture firm in exchange for equity.

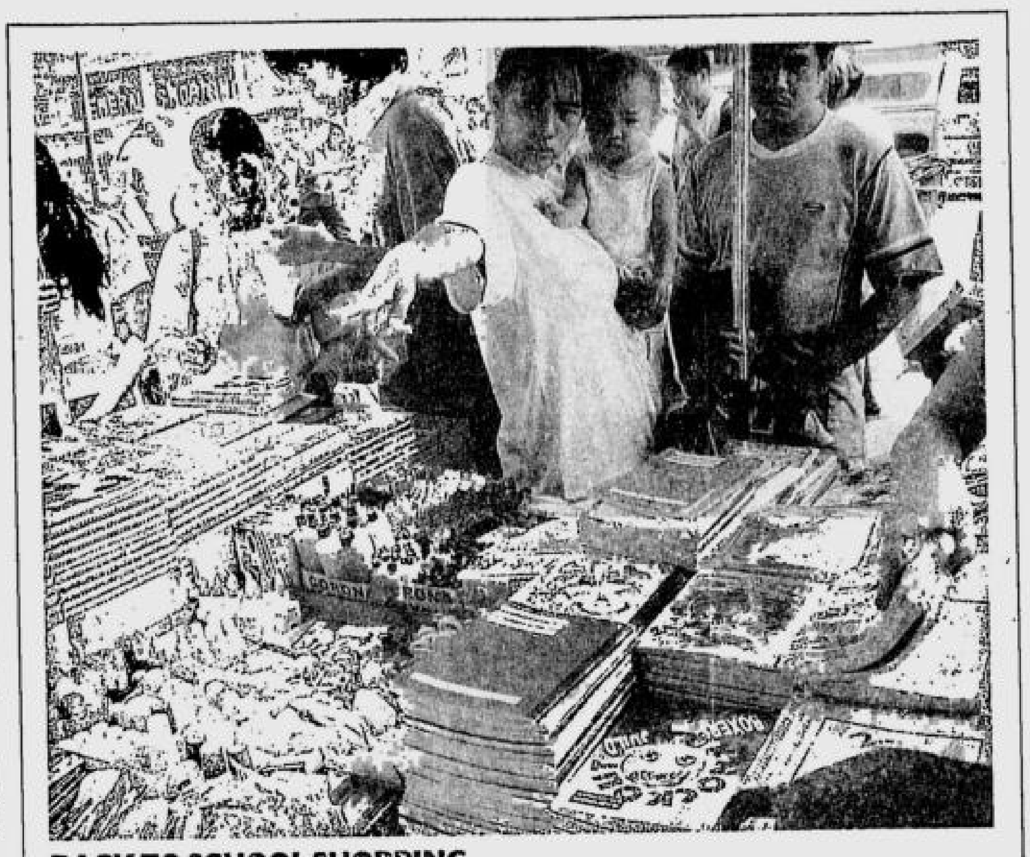
"The transaction with Sterling Energy will provide Forum Energy Corp. with the means to fast-track development of its Philippine assets, through access to the London market along with the additional exposure to Gsec 101, a natural gas prospect with world-class potential. We are confident that this transaction will add significant value to the company," Robinson said.

Following the asset transfers, he said the new company would then apply for admission to the London Stock Exchange's Alternative Investment Market.

The new firm had already received pre-listing commitments for some $6.5 million, raised through an institutional placement brokered by London's Noble & Company and Edinburgh. These investors would acquire about 20 percent of Forum Energy Plc.

After this institutional placement, Forum's stake in the new firm will be placed at 57 percent, while that of Sterling will be pegged at 23 percent.

The pre-initial public offering placement has placed an initial value of roughly $32.5 million on the new company.



BACK TO SCHOOL SHOPPING
Parents and kids shop for school supplies in Divisoria for the coming school year. ERIK ARAZAS

Philam to pay ₱574M in pre-need plans

PHILAM Plans, the country's leading pre-need company, said it would pay P574 million worth of maturing pre-need plans this year, up from the P254 million last year.

This year, it estimated that 11,000 to 12,000 plan holders were availing themselves of pension and education plans benefits.

In a briefing yesterday, Philam Plans president Jesus Hofileña estimated that between 2006 and 2011, Philam would have to pay P9.8 billion in benefits.

Philam Plans has a trust fund of P15.3 billion as of March this year. It is invested largely in government securities which generated 11.17 percent in yield last year.

This year, Philam Plans to increase its stock investment to 16 percent of its total trust fund investments from less than 5 percent in 2004.

"We have taken this deliberate and conscious step to beef up our trust fund and keep this in liquid assets. We are ready to meet our obligations," Hofileña said.

He, however, expected a slower second quarter for the industry in view of concerns brought about by the inability of certain pre-need companies, particularly College Assurance Plan Philippines and Pacific Plans Inc., to settle their obligations.

Hofileña said Philam Plans was expecting sales in April to decline by 15 percent from year-ago level. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF THE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING REMITTANCES AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE UNIVERSAL CHARGE

ERC CASE NO. 2003-187

x--x

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the proposed amendments to the *Guidelines and Procedures Governing Remittances and Disbursements of the Universal Charge* drafted by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) is scheduled for public consultation on June 9, 2005 at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

All interested parties may submit their comments (both hard and soft copies) on the proposed amendments on or before June 2, 2005. Only parties who have filed their written comments on or before the prescribed period would be considered parties of record. The proposed guidelines may be photocopied, at cost, during the regular office hours at the ERC Main Office at the above-mentioned address or may be downloaded from the ERC Website at www.erc.gov.ph.

Pasig City, May 23, 2005.

FOR AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION:

RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.
Chairman

Proposed Amendments/Clarifications
on ERC Case No. 2003-187
In the Matter of the Approval of the Guidelines Governing
Remittances and Disbursements of the Universal Charge.

PSALM's Proposal

1. Proposed Amendments

PSALM noted that based on the UC Guidelines, the submission of the reports pertaining to the UC billings, collections and remittances are made at the same time as making its remittance to PSALM. Therefore, PSALM can only account the receivables two (2) months after it was billed, thereby creating understatement and abnormal balance in the UC receivables account.

In order to address the understated and abnormal balance in the UC receivables account due to delay in the submission of reports, the following amendments are proposed:

From	To
Section 5 (c) For proper control and recording, each Collecting Entry shall submit all the necessary information to PSALM as required under Section ("Provision of Information") at the same time as making its remittance to the Main Trust Account-Universal Charge.	**Section 5 (c)** For proper control and timely recording, each Collecting Entity shall submit to PSALM all the necessary information pertaining to billing of the Universal Charge as required under Section ("Provision of Information") on the fifteenth (15th) day of the succeeding month. Similarly, information on collection and remittance of Universal Charge as requried under Section ("Provision of Information") shall be submitted to PSALM on the fifteenth (15th) day following the collection period, to coincide with the date of remittance.
Section 6.01 (b) The statements or information x x x in respect to each calendar month should be submitted to PSALM (by electronic mail or facsimile transmission) by each Collecting Entity to arrive on or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the succeeding month or in any case no later than the date on which the Collecting Entity remits its collection of the Universal Charge to the Main Trust Account. – Universal Charge – x x x.	**Section 6.01 (b)** The statements or information x x x in respect of each calendar month should be submitted to PSALM (by electronic mail or facsimile transmission) by each Collecting Entity to arrive on or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the succeeding month.

2. Proposed Additional Provision to be Inserted after Sec. 6.04

The UC billing summary provided by Collecting Entities (CEs) located in the transmission system are verified using the report from TRANSCO. However, reports submitted by CEs located in the SPUG area could not be validated, unless NPC-SPUG is required to render a report of actual meter readings in Kilowatt hours for all CEs under its jurisdiction. Hence, it is suggested that the following provision should be inserted after Section 6.04;

Sec 6.05 _Reports by NPC-SPUG_ – No later than the fifteenth (15th) day of each calendar month, the National Power Corporation – Strategic Power Utilities Group (NPC-SPUG) shall submit to PSALM a summary of its actual meter readings in kilowatt hours for the immediately preceding calendar month separately identifying each metering point and the corresponding Distribution Utility, supplier or End-User in the SPUG area

(PDI—May 25, 2005)

Hoarding blamed for low tax take

HOARDING of supply by dealers and wholesalers shortly before the new excise tax on cigarettes was approved early this year was the main reason for the decline in the excise tax collection of the government in the first quarter of the year, cigarette manufacturers said yesterday.

Florante Dy, president of the Philippine Cigar and Cigarette Association (PCCA), said cigarette makers should not be faulted for producing more cigarettes in the months preceding the passage of Republic Act No. 9334, the new excise tax law covering alcohol and cigarette products. "They are only responding to increased demand by dealers and traders," Dy explained.

"Like most commodities facing an imminent price increase, cigarettes too are being hoarded by traders. Most wholesalers, especially the big ones, are betting on making windfall profits by buying cigarettes at lower prices and later selling them at a premium when the new excise tax takes effect," he stressed.

Since dealers and wholesalers still had enough inventory of cigarettes in the first quarter, the manufacturers registered lower sales and therefore, the excise tax collection was also lower.

Dy issued the statement following reports by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) that the excise tax collection from cigarette firms slid by 22 percent in the first quarter of 2005 compared to year-ago level.

The BIR blamed the drop to the so-called "frontloading" or the increased production and withdrawal of cigarettes from manufacturing plants in anticipation of higher excise taxes.

"Increased production and sales prior to a price increase or a new tax is not unusual. It is not something peculiar to tobacco products but also happens in other industries like petroleum, automobiles and even prime commodities like rice," he explained.

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SECOND INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) invites interested parties ("Project Proponents") to prequalify to bid for the **MWSS Treated Bulk Water Supply Project** (the "Project") to supply a total of 400 MLD treated bulk water to the MWSS Concession Areas.

The Project will be implemented in accordance with R.A. No. 7718, (Philippine BOT Law) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) under a Build-Operate-and-Transfer contractual arrangement. The Project Proponent shall be responsible for identifying the proposed water source/s, financing, feasibility study, detailed engineering design, construction, and operation and maintenance of the treated bulk water supply facilities. Contractor(s) to be engaged in the Project shall be identified.

The competitive bidding for the Project will be conducted in accordance with the procurement guidelines of the BOT Law.

The new Prequalification Documents may be obtained from the Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), Office of the MWSS' Senior Deputy Administrator, located at the Ground Floor, Engineering and Operations Building, MWSS Complex, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines, starting on May 31, 2005 until June 27, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php1,500.00). Only those who purchased the new Prequalification Documents, which contain detailed instructions to applicants, will be allowed to submit applications to prequalify.

Applications to Prequalify should be submitted in the required number of copies, in sealed envelopes, to the above address not later than **2:00 p.m.** (Manila time) of **July 26, 2005**. Reference time shall be the bundy clock located at the same office indicated above. Late submissions shall not be accepted.

The Prequalification Conference is scheduled at 2:00 p.m. on June 23, 2005 at the MWSS Board Room, 5th Floor MWSS Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

The MWSS reserves the right to reject any or all applications to prequalify and any or all bids, and declare a failure of prequalification and/or bidding or not award the contract where such award will not redound to the benefit of the MWSS and the public.

The MWSS assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnity the applicants and/or bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their application and bids.

(Sgd.) ORLANDO C. HONDRADE
Administrator

(PDI May 25, June 1 & 8, 2005)

Cocktales

From page B3

Jardine Land fell through, with the Hong Kong land developer now applying for a Supreme Court order for a writ of possession over a one-hectare portion of the PWU Edsa campus.

Jardine Land foreclosed the property after PWU failed to settle a P210-million loan since 1998. PWU failed to redeem the property within the one-year redemption period following a 2002 auction, where Jardine Land, for P150 million, emerged as the winning bidder.

- THE DISQUALIFICATION complaint filed against Philippine Veterans Bank director Romeo Roxas has been thrown out by the Bangko Sentral, saying the Securities and Exchange Commission, not the central bank, is the proper venue for such an intra-corporate dispute.

A PVB faction claims Roxas' father is not a World War II veteran as required by the bank's by-laws for its directors, but Roxas says his parentage had been clouded in the government birth records as his late father had maintained a second family.

Heard through the grapevine

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo flew to Singapore to attend the birthday party of Renato "Bing" de Guzman, the Filipino CEO of ING Asia Private Bank. Among the VIP guests who also jetted in from Manila was stockbroker Vivian Yuchengco.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Meralco sees delay in final leg of refund

By Abigail L. Ho

THE FOURTH and final phase of the Manila Electric Co.'s P30-billion refund process will be delayed anew as the distribution utility awaits specific guidelines from the Bureau of Internal Revenue on how to go about withholding taxes on the rebates.

The BIR had earlier ordered Meralco to withhold 25 percent of the refund to active customers, and 32 percent of rebates to be given to firms that had already terminated their Meralco accounts.

Meralco assistant vice president and refund management task force head Leonardo Mabale said the BIR would first have to issue a revenue memorandum order on refund-related withholding taxes to outline exactly what being a tax withholding agent would require from the power distributor.

To help the BIR in drafting the guidelines, he said Meralco had also submitted its own recommendations, including issues that might arise as a result of the order to withhold taxes on the refund.

He said among the concerns that Meralco raised involved customers with no taxpayer identification numbers (TIN).

Under the law, if Meralco withheld taxes for entities without TIN, it would be subject to penalties.

"If the BIR order states that we should remit (the withheld taxes) even without TIN, then we'll be obliged to do so. We want to be exempted from the penalties that come with remitting without TIN," he told the INQUIRER.

Another related concern, he said, was the further delay in the implementation of the refund as it would be difficult to do the refund without the customer's TIN.

Meralco would then have to write to the customers, remind them of the TIN requirement and find out what option they would go for, in terms of getting their refund.

Meralco expects to file within the week amendments to its previously approved refund guidelines governing the first tranche of the last phase of its refund process (Phase 4a), as well as its proposal for the second tranche of the fourth phase of the refund scheme (Phase 4b).

From issuing zero-coupon refund notes to Phase 4b customers entitled to refunds, he said Meralco would instead issue post-dated checks.

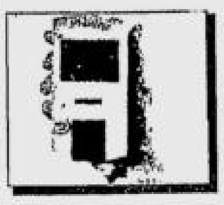
These checks would be offered to all entitled customers, whether or not they have arrears.

According to Meralco's previous proposal, only customers without arrears would be given the option to get post-dated check option.

Another amendment would be the "cash option" for the fixed credit to future bills scheme that the Energy Regulatory Commission will approve.

Mabale explained that customers availing themselves of the fixed credit to future bills option could also choose to get their rebates in cash for certain billing months, provided that they inform Meralco of their option at least a month in advance.

Meralco could start processing refunds for Phase 4 customers as soon it gets the revenue memorandum order from the BIR as well as the approval of the ERC on proposed amendments to the refund process, he said.



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For inquiries and reservations, please contact Mr. Clarence Mala
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email michelle@globallinkph.com

Philippine Center for Print Excellence Special Activities:
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> Launching of the Print Buyer's Guide - The Green Book
> Recognition of international award-winning Philippine printers during the Asian Print Awards

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3:00 - 3:45	Protection Beyond Expectation	Prodetech
3:00 - 3:45	Go2Call Product Presentation	Go2Call
4:00 - 4:45	Colored Printer LX 800	Chase Technologies Corp.
4:00 - 4:45	Sharp n eCopy Working Solution	E-Copy Corp
5:00 - 5:45	Netmarks Services Capabilities	Netmarks Phils
5:00 - 5:45	Canon Webcam	Canon Marketing Phils.
June 3, 2005 (Friday)		
11:00 - 11:45	Workflows: Integrating Digital and offset Printing Environments	Philippine Fuji Xerox
1:00 - 1:45	Technical Presentation on Armor Excellent Quality Barcode Ribbon	V-Tech Barcode System
1:00 - 1:45	Premium Gifts with Ocean Glassware	Gumamal Sons
2:00 - 2:45	Pitney Bowes Engineering the Flow of Communications	Paper Handling Systems
3:00 - 3:45	Thinking Differently Transforming Profitability	HP Indigo
4:00 - 4:45	Display Communication Solutions	Globaltronics
5:00 - 5:45	Seamless IP & Your Contact Center	Concerto Software (Asia) Pte. Ltd.
June 4, 2005 (Saturday)		
11:00 - 11:45	Power of Digital Display	Big Pix Graphic System
1:00 - 1:45	Televantage	Infinite Network Solutions
1:00 - 1:45	Total Punching and Binding System	SPC Philippines Inc.
2:00 - 2:45	Technical Presentation on Armor Excellent Quality Barcode Ribbon	V-Tech Barcode System
2:00 - 2:45	Understanding Voice Over IT. Simple Technology Steps for Simple Business	Philonline
3:00 - 3:45	Maximizing Profitability with Digital Label	HP Indigo
3:00 - 3:45	Riso HC500 "The World's Color Printer"-An Ideal Alternative to Full Color Offset	Copylandia
4:00 - 4:45	Prepress Right on Your Desktop	Gakken Philippines
5:00 - 5:45	Add Life to Your Presentation	
5:30 - 6:30	Corporate Dressing.. Outclassing the Competition	Gakken Philippines Digna Rosales Enterprises
June 5, 2005 (Sunday)		
11:00 - 11:45	More than Yellow, More than just Pages	DPC
1:00 - 1:45	"Show and Sell". Using AVP's to Market Your Product	Digital Trip
2:00 - 2:45	Televantage	Infinite Network Solutions

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DR. NED ROBERTO, PhD is one of Asia's leading authorities on marketing. He is a much sought after consultant, speaker, author, and educator. He has taught at De La Salle University in Manila, Northwestern University in Chicago and INSEAD in France. He was professor of International Marketing at the Asian Institute of Management for 29 years. In 1983, he received the Philippine Marketing Association's Agora Award for Marketing Education, and in 2004, he was awarded the 1st Lifetime Achievement Award as Marketing Educator by the Philippine Association of Marketing Educators.

Dr. Roberto has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for Fortune 500 companies in the U.S., Europe, and Asia such as Procter & Gamble, Citibank, McCann Erickson, Nestle, AC Nielsen, etc. He is the author (with Philip Kotler) of Social Marketing, which has been translated into seven languages, as well as the bestselling User-Friendly Marketing Research and several other books and countless papers on marketing.

Dr. Roberto earned his MBA and PhD in Marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business.

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First Philippine Holdings Corporation

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

Please take notice that the Annual Stockholders Meeting of First Philippine Holdings Corporation will be held on **Wednesday, June 8, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.** at the **Meralco Theater**, Lopez Building, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City.

The Agenda of the meeting are as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Required Notice
3. Determination of Quorum
4. Approval of the Minutes of the May 17, 2004 Stockholders Meeting
5. Reports of the Chairman & the President
6. Approval/Ratification of the December 31, 2004 Reports and the Audited Financial Statements
7. Ratification of the Acts of the Board, of the Executive Committee and of Management
8. Amendment of Article Sixth of the Amended Articles of Incorporation and Conforming Amendment to Article II, Section 1 of the By-Laws Increasing the Number of Directors from Eleven to Thirteen
9. Election of Directors
10. Appointment of External Auditors
11. Other Matters
12. Adjournment

The deadline for submission of proxy is June 1, 2005. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present some form of identification, such as passport, driver's license, or company I.D. Registration will start at 2:00 p.m.

(SGD.) **ENRIQUE I. QUIASON**
Corporate Secretary

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Healthy water keeps couple afloat

By Ime Morales Aznar
Contributor

CAREER TALES

VOYAGERS of long ago used to put silver coins in jars of milk to delay the spoilage of its contents. Liquids and silver have always been a healthy combination since the time of ancient Greeks and Romans who used this mixture up to the modern day National Aeronautics Space Administration (Nasa) scientists who use this same technology for the water treatment of their space vehicles. The same concept is being used today by AquaHealth, a water refilling company owned and operated by the husband and wife team of Sonny and Ann Lourdes Agustin.

AquaHealth produces alkaline water. "It is healthy because it helps flush out toxins from the body," Ann reveals. They use a process called silver ionization, and the end product is great tasting water that's not "overkilled"—meaning, all the healthful minerals remain in the water.

God-given ideas

The Japanese and Koreans started the production of alkaline water. However, the Agustin couple did not simply import the equipment. They looked at foreign technology, studied and researched some more, then put up their own fabrication facility to develop original machines that will produce alkaline water of the same quality as its foreign counterparts. "My husband is the brains behind the technology," Ann says, "we have people who build the machines, but the design and the technology come from him."

According to Sonny, the secret is dedication. "Have commitment, and never stop researching and thinking" he says. "With God's help, you will become successful." Both of them admit that their talents and capacities are God-given gifts.

The business itself is driven by the vision of providing water that will promote good health among Filipinos, and of helping the government by providing clean potable water in communities. AquaHealth, to date, has 49 branches (franchises) nationwide. It has also received quite a number of national and regional awards for product excellence. But the real payoff is in hearing the actual experiences of the people they have helped. "You should hear their testimonials; they come up to us and tell us how the water helped improve their health," Sonny beams.

Starting from scratch

"We started with practically nothing," Ann discloses. "I was working in a hotel, and he had a taxi business." After the couple got married, they went into the business of car dealership. They were quite successful at it so they ventured into another business and set up a car rental company in Angeles, Pampanga.

The car rental company was successful for a while, but being a risky endeavor by nature, the inevitable problems and setbacks eventually overtook the initial success. "We failed after a while and ended up broke," Ann recalls.

The couple charged everything to experience, packed their bags, and moved back to Manila, vowing to learn from their mistakes and to recover their losses. That was in 1997, a period in local history when the water business was starting to thrive. "We wanted something that's less risky, so we took advantage of the booming water refilling business and opened the first AquaHealth store that year," Ann says.

After some time, the hardworking couple were able to recover from their previous losses, and began receiving inquiries about franchising. Ann remembers, "We grabbed the opportunities as they came, we did not hold back; once you've been there, you're not afraid to fail anymore." They still made some mistakes during the first few years, but they looked at the experience as a learning process. According to Sonny, they "learned to keep on improving, that is the secret."

Turning point

The year 1997 was an important period in Sonny and Ann's lives. Aside from opening the first AquaHealth store, the couple also faced an important trial. Ann was diagnosed with a bone tumor in her right arm. The tumor had already eaten a large portion of the bone in her right forearm by the time she underwent surgeries. After going through treatment, Ann eventually suffered from mineral/calcium deficiency. It is fortunate that the water she sells and also drinks could actually provide calcium and other minerals that her body needs to recover from the illness.

"That was a turning point in my life; I realized that life is a serious matter," Ann says of her difficult experience. She selflessly shares the lessons that she has learned in her life: "You really have to keep on learning, persevere and become self-reliant; do not wait for things to happen, but make things happen yourself." It is important for a person to understand his or her "purpose in life, to think about how to help people."

SONNY and Ann Agustin

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Ann doesn't believe in procrastination, but firmly promotes quick action. "It's correct to think and make plans, but don't take too long, do it right away; if you make mistakes, that's okay," she urges, "rise up again, correct the mistakes quickly, and move forward."

(*Send feedback to* blubitel@yahoo.com.)

Communicator translates biotech issues to layman's language

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

ALL ABOUT WORK

OFTEN, she jokes that her memory is slowly deteriorating because there were times when she failed to take precautionary measures when she handled experiments before. "That's what I get for not wearing gloves," she laughs heartily. Lately however, as a science communication specialist, the closest thing she does that can be considered hazardous is getting buried under piles of articles on crop biotechnology. A science communication specialist for the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA), Knowledge Center, Ma. Inez Ponce de Leon researches on developments in crop biotechnology and educates the people about it.

The ISAAA, Knowledge Center was formed in response to the clamor of senior policy makers and national program leaders in Southeast Asia for the urgent need of education for stakeholders, including consumers, farmers, policy makers, scientists, and the media in developing countries on topics like transgenic crops, dominant biotech crops, genetically modified crops under development and biosafety regulations just to name a few. It is Ponce de Leon's job to communicate recent findings on these issues in the hopes of contributing to food security, poverty reduction and environmental conservation.

Media monitoring

"A science communication specialist is someone who marries the excitement of communication with the seriousness of science," sums up Ponce de Leon. Every day, she comes to the office before eight to scour the Internet for the latest development on biotechnology. "Whether it's written, spoken, or even electronic communication, I have to write or speak up and educate. In short, I communicate science in an understandable, exciting way for the layperson, without changing the facts."

Aside from media monitoring, the communication specialist also assesses how well the public is informed based on her research. It is also her job to report on the accuracy of media report findings and techniques in agricultural biotech. She then prepares news alerts and news summaries. Sometimes, she travels abroad to talk about science communication or about ISAAA's latest projects.

DE LEON

Aha experience

Science writer by day, fictionist by night, Ponce de Leon enjoys all the writing she gets to do with her job. The start of the week is usually devoted to research. By the end of the week, she's writing, editing news and preparing reports. "I can write and surf the Net all day and interact with people from other cultures! I like the sense of being able to discover something new—I remember my teacher from high school calling it the 'Aha!' Experience—so the constantly rising learning curve makes me love this job a lot."

Ponce de Leon relishes the challenge of finding new ways to make science sound and feel interesting to people who aren't science majors. Taking the challenge up a notch, it's also a task to come up with fresh new ways to "make science still sound and feel new to people who have been working in science for a long time." The tricky part is making sure she gets the information right.

Science and communication

Ponce de Leon gets the information right because she has the technical know-how and the writing skills to back her up. She graduated with a degree in molecular biology and biotechnology from University of the Philippines Diliman, the course and school for her field, she claims. However, a master's degree is also required for her position. She is currently finishing her MS in molecular biology and biotechnology. A cum laude recipient, Ponce de Leon was nominated for best thesis on her "Analysis of DNA from Simulated Forensic Specimens."

Before ISAAA, she was a laboratory instructor at UP Diliman teaching cell and tissue culture, microbiology and biophysics. Her teaching stint and her course explain her past close encounters with possible harmful chemicals. "So yes, a technical background is necessary, but you also have to be able to communicate your field well and find that balance between science and communication," discloses the communication specialist.

An open and positive attitude is required of the job because it entails a lot of learning. "When I first entered the office, I thought I knew so much about communication and science. Now, looking back, I think I just climbed up a really steep learning curve and learned a whole lot about how to deal with different cultures, how to talk about science better than I ever did ..."

Sharing benefits

Those interested in the science of genetic engineering or are passionate for developing genetically modified sweet potatoes to eradicate world hunger can look at careers in crop biotechnology. In particular, there is a great need for science communicators according to Ponce de Leon. Every day, new cures, crops and technologies are being discovered. "Scientists need people who can talk about the field, be enthusiastic about it, and be able to talk about it in order for nonexperts to understand."

Although you won't find Ponce de Leon toiling under the sun to plant rice or till the soil, she is in a lot of ways involved in delivering the benefits of new agricultural biotechnologies to the poor in developing countries. "We're not directly into agriculture and planting, but what we do is explain facts to the general public and major stakeholders." The knowledge she imparts in the hope of assisting people to make informed decisions.

(*E-mail feedback to* candyvillanueva@pldtdsl.net)

Philippines projected as Asia's next ICT hub

THE PHILIPPINES is projected to be the next Information and Communications Technology (ICT) hub and best breeding ground of ICT professionals and workers in Asia, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) yesterday said as it called on the private sector to invest on ICT development including the training of workers on ICT systems.

Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas said the need for ICT-related investments [illegible] been highlighted with the [illegible] of June 2005 as the National ICT Month. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 802 declaring the month of June 2005 as the National ICT Month under the auspices of the Commission of Information and Communications Technology in active linkage with other government agencies including the DOLE, and private organizations.

Sto. Tomas said Proclamation No. 802 seeks to promote ICT development specifically directing government instrumentalities to work closely with the private sector to encourage ICT-related investment, enhance the skills of the country's workforce, pursue meaningful infrastructure, and promote e-governance, consistent with the Philippines' goals to compete in the global ICT market.

The labor and employment chief cited as the reasons for the country's ICT development as Asia's next ICT hub the following factors:

a) the country's strategic location, the boom of e-services, flexible workforce, and expanding infrastructure;

b) recognized e-services sectors such as the Philippines' contact centers, together with the growth of medical transcription and computer animation, are strengthening their way to compete with other Asian countries; and,

c) the start of the process of developing an ICT equipped workforce with the right competency to serve the future demand.

With these developments, it is anticipated that employment in ICT and related sectors in the country would increase, Sto. Tomas said.

Source: DOLE, Information and Publication Service

Disadvantaged accounting undergrad wants to finish studies

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM an 18-year-old student from Zambales. I am a victim of domestic violence. My father who is an overseas Filipino worker started to use verbal abusive language when I was 15 years old and my brother was nine years old. He frequently batters my mother. He consistently uses language that degrades us.

Every time we try to communicate and ask him to provide for our necessities, he berates us. We have filed a criminal case against my father but to no avail. Justice has not been served. Our neighbors say he is in Dubai. We have no information about his whereabouts or employment. He does not provide financial support.

I want to continue my college education but I cannot afford it without a job. I am also searching for financial institutions that would offer me a scholarship on the basis of financial need. Perhaps, you can provide me with assistance in looking for a job or any referrals.

I have tried submitting my bio-data to many fast food chains, but they are looking for college graduates. I am interested to do jobs connected with food, computers or any clerical work, I can run errands, order lunch for my boss. I am willing to be trained on the job. I can make the boss coffee, shred papers, take incoming calls, clean the filing cabinet—do the dirty work that nobody else will do. I am also willing to work in shifting schedules.

This is my first time to apply for a job. I can offer my employer my time, loyalty, respect and dedication. I am an undergraduate student of accountancy, computer literate with knowledge of Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, Access, Powerpoint and use of the Internet.

Eager To Study

Thank you for your letter. I shudder at the thought of the experience you have been through. Do try to give comfort to your mom and brother. Help them to process the negative experience so that they don't end up embittered and can move forward without the help from your father.

There may be reasons for his behavior, which I understand may not have been present before he went overseas to work. He is probably under extreme stress or pressure at work. Do you think communicating with him in a non-judgmental way can help?

Just remember, no matter how difficult your past experiences were, you can always overcome them. A person is endowed with free will. One can choose to respond positively to difficult circumstances. There are many aspects of your life you can control and influence. In my work as a consultant, I have the honor of meeting many participants in my workshops, who come from very challenging backgrounds, going through much sacrifice to survive and succeed. In retrospect, they realized their past experiences became the springboard to build their character.

I agree with your being proactive by seeking a job. I think it is the positive thing to do. You sound intelligent and levelheaded. You might want to share your specific situation with the dean of your school. Your school maybe able to provide you with a part-time job that will enable you to complete your studies.

Then again, many managers of fast food chains may come across this article and offer you work. If you are offered a job in Manila, would you have a place to stay? Do come over to our office and we can try to find you a job among our friends and clients. Let us make sure, it is a job that allows you to complete your studies. Do take care and God bless!

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

Is the adventure of working at home worth it?

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

REMIND me again why I am here, I asked a friend. It was mid-morning on a sweltering hot day. We were under a thin mahogany tree at the edge of an open field in Sta. Barbara Comprehensive High School in Iloilo. Having made the decision to be a work-at-home mom, I found myself dragged to the Visayas to be with my 14-year-old daughter who made it to the Palarong Pambansa as part of the archery team for Calabarzon. Drenched in sweat down to my underpants, I was light years away from the airconditioned-corporate bubble I used to spend my days in. For eight straight days we were rubbing elbows with public school teachers and playing glorified water girl to eight teenagers who really rather preferred I was somewhere else. As I was covered in dust and sweat, which quickly turned into cake on the face, the question dogged me: I gave up my career for this?

Regrets?

The question rears its head up often, especially during office hours, when I worry about what everyone else is doing while I am in some god-forsaken place, doing some mundane task. I've grown accustomed to the hound—the voice that wonders what this new world is all about. I like to call it Demi, short for "is this really me?" Or the moniker for "little demon." She's part of any career transition. Demi likes to believe we can go back to the way things were. It likes the melodramatic: telling me that I've given up so much, instead of focusing on what I've gained. It likes the old comforts and resists the new adventures. But what Demi has to understand soon is that I didn't give up a career, I simply redefined it.

If you're thinking of redefining your career too or in the middle of shifting from office-based to home-based career, here are some ways you might encounter your own Demi.

1. It takes stamina to be a work-at-home mom (WAHM). A friend told me everyday she prays for the energy to keeping going. The demands of office work is more mental than physical. In the office, you sit comfortably in your desk, cooled by airconditioning; with the kids, you're constantly on the go, running errands, chasing toddlers. As one mom told me, "it's really the hardest job in the world."

2. WAHMs go through an emotional roller coaster. In the corporate world, you survive by putting on masks—putting on the necessary face to complete a task, and shelving all the other emotions that have no place in the job to be done. With your kids, your emotions are all out there. You're constantly vulnerable and the masks don't work as well. You're in constant delight and constant fear. You're constantly affirming, even as you are setting boundaries.

3. WAHMs have to be self-propelled. Even as I sit in this public school, I have my laptop and am typing away deadlines that still have to be met no matter what part of the world we're in. It takes more discipline to keep working hours when you don't have fixed office time. I'm constantly watching the clock, making sure I manage to squeeze in enough work to keep pace with expectations.

4. WAHMs see no clear results. In the corporate world, you know what your management objectives are and there is a clear score card by which you measure your performance. With your kids, although your objectives may be clear to you, the way your kids respond to what you do is not predictable. You only hope that 10 years from now that little effort you did today will help them become responsible and independent adults who want to create a positive impact on the world. You can't tell if you're doing that when you're handing bottled water to a grunted teenager. You can only hope.

So why am I here? Because I believe in hope. I believe in the possibility of being an extraordinary parent even as I redefine a career for myself. Hope tells me the adventure will be worth it.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is founding editor of Working Mom magazine, published by ABS-CBN Publishing, Inc. Comments are welcome at an_alcantara@abs-.pinoycentral.com.)

How can we sell more of our stuff?

DEAR WW: I'm feeling that our product isn't selling like it should be selling. We've tried everything to boost sales and nothing works. Any suggestions?

No Go

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

Your e-mail reminded me of Tony Alleyne. He tried to sell his apartment for two million dollars. Why so pricey? Alleyne spent 10 years creating a detailed model of the "Star Trek" starship Enterprise. It has a life-sized transporter control, a gigantic warp core drive, an infinity mirror and voice-activated lighting.

Needless to say the apartment appealed to a limited number of buyers. Unfortunately, many of us are as myopic as Mr. Alleyne and needlessly limit the market for our products. I've listed some strategies below to help you get a better perspective on your product and how you can increase its sales. For more strategies, check out Seth Godin's book "Purple Cow" (Portfolio, 2002).

Can you improve the product? If sales are lagging, chances are that it's more than just a lack of customer awareness. So it's important to always start by exploring what you can do to make the product better. I always like to ask the "magic wand" question of key customers. "If you had a magic wand, what would you change about our product or us?" Make it easy for customers to give you feedback; this is the cheapest focus group you'll ever work with.

Can you copy something done in another industry? Breakthroughs seldom come by copying what someone else in your industry is doing. It's far more common to get insight from somewhere else. So take the time to pay attention to what's happening in industries far removed from yours. A simple way to do this is to seek out newspaper and magazine articles on businesses outside of your industry. Do this regularly and I'll guarantee that you'll get ideas that no one else in your industry has come up with.

Can you zig while others in your industry zag? Every industry has its sacred cows. Take the airline industry. For the longest time their business model was to soak the last minute business flyers with huge prices on tickets. Recently, they learned that by lowering their prices they actually sell more tickets and make more money. What are the "givens" in your industry and how can you challenge them?

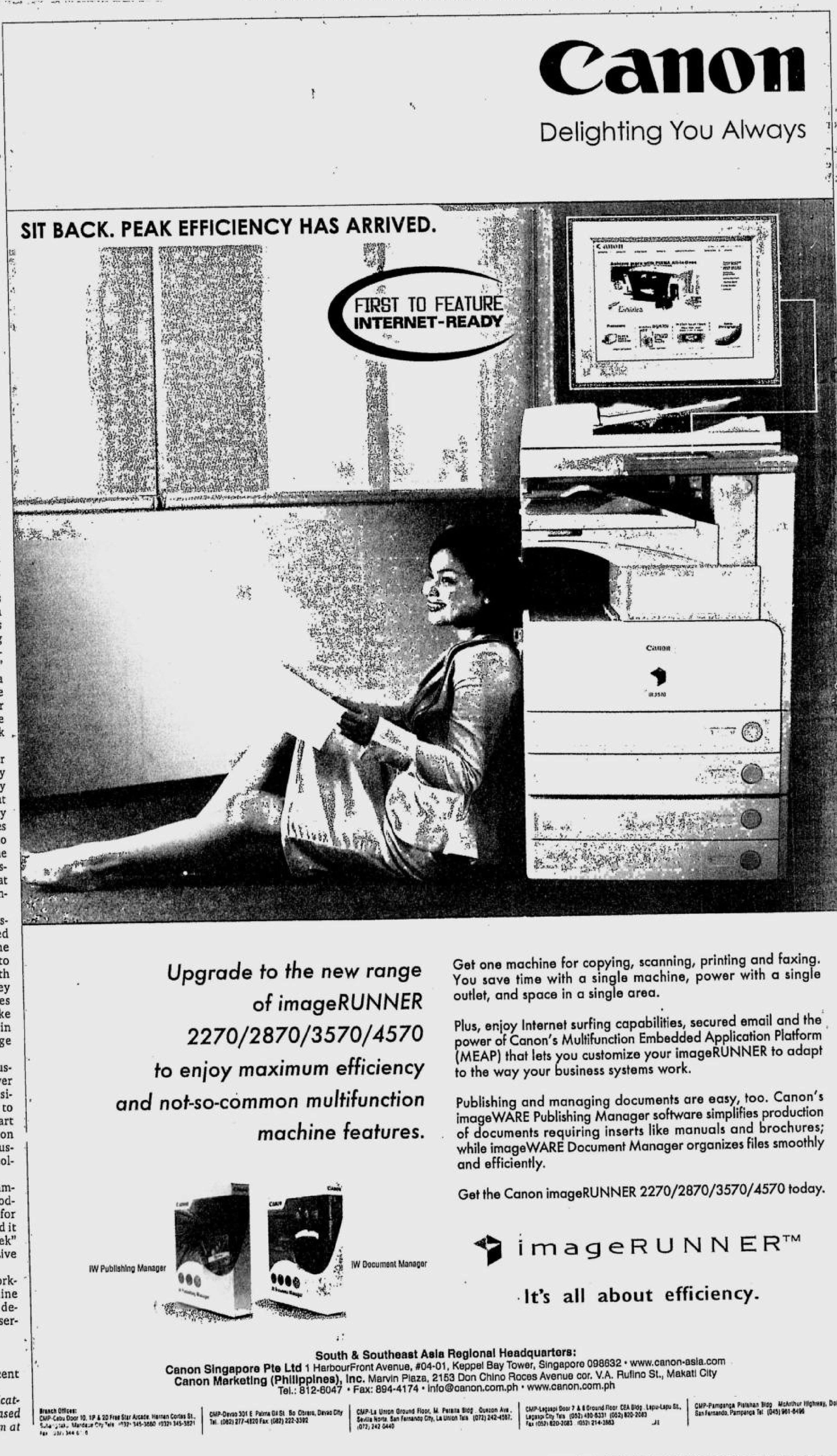
How can you make it easy for your customers to talk up your service? It never ceases to amaze me how little most businesses do to encourage their customers to talk up their products. For example, as part of your service can you print up a report on your company and product that a customer can show to their friends or colleagues?

There are times when a new ad campaign is the best way to move more products. But more often it's just as valuable for you to take a hard look in the mirror. And it doesn't have to be one of those "Star Trek" infinity mirrors, any old one will do. Live long and prosper.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which Queen song title best describes your company's products/services?

—"Death on Two Legs," 25 percent
—"We Will Rock You," 34.8 percent
—"The Show Must Go On," 40.1 percent

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)



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CONSUELO OFRASIO VDA. DE EUGENIO

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband
RAMON "MOY" CARRILLO EUGENIO
(Owner, EPSA BAKERY of Camba, Binondo/ May 27, 1954)
on May 24, 2005 at the age of 93.

Her loving children **Ronnie & Baby Murillo, Ross & Emmy Fabon, Alice & Mayor Amadeo R. Perez, Jr., Nonong, Jr. & Cecille de los Santos, Nonica & Bobby Alfaro** (†), **Dodie, Naning & Julie de los Santos, Tony, Pacita & Hadji Tiano, Sylvia** and children; grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel A1, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment to be announced later.

TATAY, we love you very much.
So Sadly Missed and Lovingly Remembered
on his Ninth Death Anniversary

AGUSTIN YDEM DE JESUS

Lucena City
Best Father, Greatest Grandfather
August 22, 1907 – May 25, 1996

His Children: LILIA & BENHUR, CLODUALDO & CAROLINA, MA. TERESA & RICARDO; grandchildren: NINGNING & ALFRED, CLAUDE & OLIVE, TOTI, OLIVER & LORALIE; great grandchildren: MICKEY & MARTY; friends & relatives request to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. Masses will be offered at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church at Cordillera St., Q.C., Holy Redeemer Church at 6:00 A.M. and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Daly City, CA, U.S.A.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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ERNESTO M. HERNANDEZ, SR.

Retired Regional Director (DPWH, Reg. 1)
of Laoag, Ilocos Norte

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 72,
last Monday May 23, 2005.

His bereaved wife **Ofelia**, children **Marivic, Marlene & Leo, Boyet & Helen, Nol, Koko & Myrene, Susan & Rey**, grandchildren, brother **Simeon** & wife **Lydia**, and nephews request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 15, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment to be announced later.

Salvador Apuli Aznar

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 17, 2005
at the age of 90.

His loving wife, **Gloria Recuenco Aznar**, children **Edgar, Cesar, Eleanor, Nestor, Elmer & Myrna** & all of his grandchildren & great grandchildren, relatives & friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, at Loyola Memorial Park - Marikina, Marikina City on May 26, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Nueva Ecija
MUNICIPALITY OF GENERAL M. NATIVIDAD
-oOo-
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of General M. Natividad, Nueva Ecija as implementing partner of the DLR for ARCP, invites contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Medium "A" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Name of Project : Tala-Piñahan Farm to market Road (Phase II)
Approved Budget Cost : P7,618,348.84
Length : 1,352 meters
Estimated Duration : 175 calendar days
Scope of Work : Concreting/ripraping and installation of various pipe culverts

Minimum Required Equipments:

1 unit Bulldozer (120 hp)
1 unit Road Grader (125 hp)
1 unit Road Roller (10 Tons)
1 unit Backhoe (0.75 cu.m.)
1 unit Payloader (75B)
4 units Dump Truck (10 wheeler)
1 unit Water Truck (1,500 gal. Cap.)
2 units Concrete Mixer (1 bagger)
2 units Concrete Vibrator
2 units Concrete Screeder

3. Schedule of Bidding Activities
   - Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) And application for eligibility : June 03, 2005
   - Issuance of Bidding Documents : May 26 to June 07, 2005
   - Pre-Bid Conference : June 13, 2005 @ 10:00 a.m.
   - Submission and Opening of Bids : June 28, 2005 @ 10:00 a.m.
4. Prospective bidders should secure and fill up the Information Sheets from the BAC Secretariat c/o Mrs. Angelina T. Albino at the Municipal Planning and Development Office, Municipal Building, General M. Natividad with contact number at 0920-4123698.
5. Unless otherwise indicated as the Instructions to Bidders or other bidding and contract documents, all particulars relative to the procurement and contract implementation shall be governed by RA 9184 and its IRR-A.
6. Bidding documents will be issued to eligible bidders at the office of the BAC Secretariat at the Municipal Treasurer's Office upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php. 5,000.00 per set.
7. The Local Government Unit of General M. Natividad reserves the right to accept or reject any Bids, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **FERNANDO S. BERNARDO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - May 19 & 26, 2005)

HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD
Expanded National Capital Region Field Office
2nd Floor, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that LEXMEDIA REALTY, INC. (owner) and CORINTHIAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION (developer) have filed with this Board a sworn registration statement for the sale of units at **CASA BOUGAINVILLA** located at Mascardo St., Tejeros, Makati City, specifically described as Lot No. 22, Block No. 26 of the subdivision plan Psd-18114, containing an area of 355 square meters and registered under TCT No. 220934.

All papers relative thereto shall, upon request and payment of processing fee, be available for inspection during business hours by any person having legal interest thereon.

Absent any legal impediment, the name of the above-cited project is deemed registered and a certificate, in evidence thereof, shall forthwith be issued after two (2) weeks from the last day of publication.

Quezon City, Metro Manila, May 19, 2005.

(Sgd.) **JESSE A. OBLIGACION**
Regional Director

(PDI-May 25 & June 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

BIDDING FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR 2005-2007
ITB No. 2005-009-s

The **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (BAC-GS), wishes to invite duly licensed Companies or Business firms to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of **JANITORIAL SERVICES at its Central Office, and its Service Offices for Manila, Quezon City, and Las Piñas for the year 2005 to 2007.**

The approved budget for this two-year contract of janitorial services is **Php 18,396,685.44** coming from **C.O.B. 2005.**

Bid documents can be obtained from **May 18 to June 1, 2005**, 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office, (Room 1804) 18th floor, PHILHEALTH, Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Php10,000.00.**

A pre-bid conference will be held on **June 7, 2005** at **1:30p.m.** at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office.

Deadline of **Submission of Bids** will be on **June 21, 2005 at 12:00 noon** at the office of the BAC Secretariat (Room 1804). **Opening of Bids** will follow at **1:30 p.m.** at the same date and venue. The official time clock shall be the wall clock located at Room 1804 (Office of the BAC Secretariat). Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.

(Sgd.) **OCTAVINO Q. ESGUERRA**
Senior Vice President and Chief Actuary
Chairperson, BAC for Goods and Services

(PDI--May 18 & 25, 2005)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES, a division of the Philippine Tourism Authority invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the design and production of:

DFP – 2006 COMPANY UNIFORM

The prospective bidder should have at least five (5) years experience in design and production of corporate uniforms.

The Approved Budget of the Contract is P4,067,220.00 chargeable against DFP Corporate Fund. The contract duration is 90 working days.

Interested bidders may submit personally their Letter of Intent and will be issued application for eligibility upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (P100 00) from May 26,27 & 31, 2005, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Purchasing Department, Duty Free Philippines, EHA Building, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Paranaque City.

Deadine of submission of the application for eligibility shall be on June 09 & 10, 2005 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. All applicants shall be notified on the results of the eligibility check.

Bid documents shall be given only to those who have been found eligible on July 08, 2005, upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Unless otherwise indicated in the Instruction to Bidders or other bidding and contract documents, all particulars relative to the procurement and contract implementation shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

Duty Free Philippines reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refuse to accept their award and the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **MA. LOURDES D. VELARDE**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Commitee

(PDI – May 18 & 25, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
Municipality of Siaton
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

May 25, 2005
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ***Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)*** and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under contract located in SDC 10 – Albiga ARC, Municipality of Siaton, Province of Negros Oriental. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Siaton, Province of Negros Oriental and implementing partner of DLR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the ***Rehabilitation of 2.00 kms. Inalad – Canaway Road*** under ***Contract No. RIRR 05 090 01 ALB-NO.***

Project Duration : 120 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents : PHP5,000.00
Minimum Bid Security : PhP 51,000.00
Bid Closing Date : June 28, 2005 Time 10:00 AM

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing & Grubbing	16,000.00	sq.m.
12(1)	Roadway & Drainage Excavation	7,927.00	cu.m.
13	Excavation for Structure	1,920.00	cu.m.
14(2)	Embankment Using Excavated Materials	2,201.00	cu.m.
20	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	1,200.00	cu.m.
21	Aggregate Base Course	1,200.00	cu.m.
50(4)	Installation of 900mm dia RCPC w/ Headwalls	24.00	ln.m.
51(2)	Grouted Riprap (Lined Canal)	359.60	cu.m.

Minimum Equipments Required

Backhoe (1 unit)-owned, Bulldozer (1 unit)-owned; Road Roller Vibratory Compactor, 9 tonner min. (1 unit)-owned, Road Grader (1 unit)-owned; Loader (1 unit)-owned; Dump Truck (4 units)-owned; Water truck (1 unit)-owned; survey instruments-owned/leased.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchase by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Siaton, Province of Negros Oriental, starting May 26, 2005 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP5,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on June 15, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of PhP51,000.00 in the form of: Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Siaton, Province of Negros Oriental, on or before the Bid closing date on June 28, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Siaton, Negros Oriental reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **DARIO L. ARBOLADO**
Chairman, LGU BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI–May 25, 2005)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **SIMON APPAREL INC.** with office address at **Barangay San Vicente Sto. Tomas, Batangas** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as a **Expanding Export Producer of Garments** with a capacity of **1,680,000 pieces per year** with project site at **same office address stated above** has been officially accepted on **May 23, 2005** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 23rd day of May 2005.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Officer-in-Charge
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--May 25, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CARMEN V. BERTOLANO has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No 241; Page No. 49; Book No. XLVIII; Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Donato Mangulat.
PDI-May 18, 25& June 1,2005

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

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Province of Negros Oriental
Municipality of Guihulngan
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO RE-BID

May 25, 2005
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ***Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)*** and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under contract located in NDC 6 - Buenavista ARC, Municipality of Guihulngan, Province of Negros Oriental. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Guihulngan, Province of Negros Oriental and implementing partner of DLR for ARCDP II invites sealed bids from eligible bidder for the ***Rehabilitation of 4.56kms. Villegas Brgy. Road*** under ***Contract No. RIRR 04 076 01 NDC-NO.***

Project Duration: 120 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: PHP 5,000.00
Minimum Bid Security: PhP 125,000.00
Bid Closing Date: June 27, 2005 Time 2:00 PM

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing & Grubbing	31,920.00	sq.m.
13-6	Pipe Culvert & Lined Canal Excavation	3,286.20	cu.m.
14 (2)	Embankment Using Common Borrow Materials	6,776.70	cu.m.
20	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	2,436.00	cu.m.
21	Aggregate Base Course	2,736.00	cu.m.
31	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement (fc'=3,500psi)	2,000.00	sq.m.
47(1)	Sheet Piles (Furnished & Driven)	120.00	ln.m.
50(4)	Installation of 900mm dia. RCPC w/ Headwalls	24.00	ln.m.
51(3)	Stone Masonry (Lined Canal)	33.60	cu.m.
SPL-1	River Control	838.79	cu.m.
SPL-2	Repair of Overflow	64.81	cu.m.

Minimum Equipments Required

Jetting Machine & Equipment (1 unit)-owned/lease; Backhoe (1 unit)-owned; Bulldozer (1 unit)-owned; Road Roller Vibratory Compactor, 9 tonner min. (1 unit)-owned; Road Grader (1 unit)-owned; Loader (1 unit)-owned; Dump Truck (4 units)-owned; Water truck (1 unit)-owned; survey instruments-owned/ leased.

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Guihulngan, Province of Negros Oriental, starting May 26, 2005 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP5,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on June 14, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of PhP125,000.00 in the form of: Cash, Certified Check, manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Guihulngan, Province of Negros Oriental, on or before the Bid closing date on June 20, 2005 at 2:00 PM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Guihulngan, Negros Oriental reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) JESUSA M. DEPOSA
Chairman, LGU BAC-ARCDPII

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 *www.philhealth.gov.ph*

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

BIDDING FOR THE LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR THE PHILHEALTH CENTRAL OFFICE
No. 2005-005-g

The **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (BAC-GS), wishes to invite duly licensed lessors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Lease of Office Space for the PhilHealth Central Office** with the following specifications:

Location

The location of the building and/or office space for the PhilHealth Central Office shall be along Shaw Boulevard, and within the Five Hundred (500) meter radius from the Rizal Capitol, so as not to cause inconvenience to the PhilHealth clientele who have already been familiar with the present location of the Office.

The location must also be within a Hundred (100) Meter radius from commercial banks and other government agencies.

The location must not be prone to flooding.

Space Requirement

The total rentable space requirement shall be from 10,600 sq.m. to 11,000 sq.m. Including a space at the ground floor of around 320 sq.m. to 350 sq.m. intended for the PhilHealth Members Assistance Center (PMAC). The office spaces must have a height from floor to ceiling of at least 2.4 meters.

Period of Contract

The term of contract shall be for a period of two (2) years, specifically from **August 1, 2005** to **July 31, 2007**, subject to renewal.

The approved budget for the two-year contract for Lease of this Office Space is **Php 70,776,000.00** coming from **C.O.B. 2005.**

Bid documents can be obtained from **May 18 to June 1, 2005**, 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office, (Room 1804) 18th floor, PHILHEALTH, Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Php10,000.00.**

A pre-bid conference will be held on **June 2, 2005 at 1:30p.m.** at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office.

Deadline of Submission of bids will be on **June 16, 2005 at 12:00 noon** at the office of the BAC Secretariat (Room 1804). Opening of Bids will follow at **1:30 p.m.** at the same date and venue. The official time clock shall be the wall clock located at Room 1804 (Office of the BAC Secretariat). **Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.**

(Sgd.) **OCTAVINO Q. ESGUERRA**
Senior Vice President and Chief Actuary
Chairperson, BAC for Goods and Services

(PDI--May 18 & 25, 2005)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **WISTRON INFOCOMM (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION** with office address at **# 4 Rizal Highway corner Aim High Avenue, SBIP Phase 1 Subic Bay Freeport Zone** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as a **New Export Producer of Personal Digital Assistant (PDA)** at a capacity of **300,000 units per year** with project site at **same office address stated above** has been officially accepted on **May 19, 2005**, and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this **19th day of May 2005.**

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Officer-In-Charge
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - May 25, 2005)

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URGENT REQUIREMENTS FOR I.T. PROFESSIONALS FOR NEW OPERATIONS

Microsoft Business Solution Consultants (Great Plains 8.0) - (Code: - MBS-I)

Financial graduate with 5-7 years of business experience in Microsoft Great Plains and retails solution. Experienced in consultancy, design & implementation practice of Microsoft Great Plains 8.0. The ideal candidate must be a certified Great Plains implementer & developer on version 8.0 with minimum 2 years experience as business analyst. A sound understanding of the financials and business along with project management principles and practices will be an advantage..

Microsoft Infrastructure Consultants – (Code: - MIC-I)

Computer science graduate with 5 to 7 years in I.T. services & minimum 3 years experience in design and implementation practice on Microsoft Windows, Exchange 2000/ 2003 architecture is a must. Experience on Microsoft Operations Manager (MOM) & Systems Management Server 2003 (SMS) is preferred with the ability to analyze systems management needs in the context of the business and develop strategies and technical architectures based on Microsoft Systems Management solutions. Knowledge on Mobile Information Server (MIS) and mobile technologies will be advantageous.

Microsoft Info solutions Consultants – (Code: - MIC-II)

Computer science graduate with 5 to 7 years in IT services & minimum of 3 years experience in design and implementation practice on Microsoft Share Point Portal Server 2003 (SPS) & integration to Microsoft AD architectures & understanding of disaster recovery procedures. The candidate must have experience in design and deployment on Microsoft Content Management Server (CMS) using the Microsoft .NET Framework Architecture, principles and components.

Vertias Consultants – (Code: - VC-I)

Computer science graduate with 5 to 7 years in IT services & minimum of 3 years experience in design, deployment and support level knowledge of Veritas Backup Exec, NetBackup and Veritas Cluster Solutions. An in-depth understanding of high availability and disaster recovery procedure is a must. The candidate must have Technical Pre Sales skills and certification of Verities and Storage hardware.

Microsoft Certified Trainer – (Code: - MCT-I)

Computer science graduate with 4-5 years in Microsoft training services & working as MCT with specialization on Windows 2003, Exchange 2003, Share Point Portal and MS SMS & MOM Servers

The general requirements applicable for the above positions must possess consulting, technical writing capability, project management, strong analytical capability and strong business acumen combined with a broad understanding of technology and how they integrate. The candidate must be certified MCSE/MCSA/MCDBA/VCP with the ability to provide professional services & account management skills are a must.

The positions offer an attractive remuneration, and other fringe benefits which commensurate with qualifications and experience .To apply, please e-mail and post your detailed resume along with a current passport size photograph detailing as to how the above criteria is being met within 10 days of the adverstiment and clearly mentioning the code and position applied for to the following address:

The Vice President
Email:- world@batelco.com.bh
Website: www.cwbah.com

KEPCO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
SALCON Power Corporation

Invitation to Bid

KEPCO Philippines Corporation ("KEPHILCO") and Salcon Power Corporation ("SALCON," and together with KEPHILCO, the "Owner") jointly invite interested parties (the "Interested Parties") to participate and submit bids and proposals (the "Bid") for:

"The design, engineering, procurement, construction, erection, commissioning, testing and related services of a coal fired thermal power plant (hereinafter referred to as "Project") with a capacity of 100MW X 2 in Barangay Colon, Municipality of Naga, Province of Cebu."

Interested Parties are requested to submit a Letter of Interest (the "LOI") which shall state the full name, address, telephone, fax numbers and other contact details of the Interested Party, name of its principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received (either through personal delivery, facsimile, registered mail, courier or other means) by the Project Bids and Awards Committee ("PBAC") in the office of KEPHILCO located in 18th Floor Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo De Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines not later than 3:00PM of June 10, 2005. Only Interested Parties who submitted an LOI shall be allowed to receive the Bidding Package.

The Bidding Package may be obtained by Interested Parties from the PBAC during office hours from May 25,2005 to June 10, 2005 upon execution of the Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form to be provided by PBAC and payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand U.S. Dollars (US$1,000) (the "Participation Fee"). Only Interested Parties who have been issued a Bidding Package shall be allowed to participate further in the bidding.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Activity	Date
Deadline for submission of LOI	3:00 PM, 10-June-05
Deadline for Application for Qualification Test	3:00 PM, 8-July-05
Notice of Qualification Test Results	20-July-05
Pre-Bid Conference	25-July-05
Bid Submission Deadline	3:00 PM, 12-August-05
Evaluation of "Unpriced Proposal"	Immediately after the Bid Submission Deadline
Evaluation of "Priced Proposal" and Selection of First Negotiable Bidder	After finalization of evaluation of the "Unpriced Proposal"

A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted in the evaluation of Bids. Other details of the bidding are available in the Bidding Package. References to date and time in this notice shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Only Interested Parties who passed the Qualification Test in accordance with Bidder's Qualification are entitled to submit the Bids. In order to assess in advance its own qualification, an Interested Party may request PBAC for e-mail transmission of the electronic version of Bidder's Qualification criteria during office hours.

Interested Parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to THREE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND U.S. DOLLARS (USD3,200,000) (the "Bid Security") in the form of an irrevocable standby letter of credit in the form to be provided by the Owner, issued directly by a reputable bank acceptable and payable to the Owner.

Only Interested Parties who duly submitted the LOI, Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement, paid the Participation Fee and received the Bidding Package shall be allowed to submit a Bid. The LOI, Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement, Participation Fee, Bids and all inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed and submitted to:

Project Bids and Awards Committee
KEPCO Philippines Corporation
18th Floor Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo De Roxas,
Salcedo Village, Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel.No.:(632)848-0231
Fax.No.:(632)848-0014
e-mail : leehyunchan@kepco.co.kr / chanlee@info.com.ph

The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any Interested Party or Bids therefrom or any part thereof, waive any minor defects therein, accept any offer which is most advantageous to Owner and declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract for any justifiable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the Owner. The Owner also assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the Interested Parties for any expense or loss incurred in their participation in this bidding. Finally, the Owner reserves the right to amend, revise, supplement, modify, or clarify the Bidding Procedures at any time without prior notice. Interested Parties will be subsequently notified thereof through a Supplemental Bid Notice which shall be incorporated into and made an integral part of the Bidding Procedure.

(Sgd.) **LEE, GIL GU**
President & CEO
KEPCO Philippines Corporation

(Sgd.) **DENNIS T. VILLAREAL**
President & CEO
Salcon Power Corporation

(PDI--May 25, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor 11th & 13th Avenues
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-077

RE: Application for grant of certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act no. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

ROBLE SHIPPING, INC.,
Applicant
x————————x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

1. For Liner Operation

Name of Ship/s	Service/s offered/to be offered
MV HEAVEN STAR	Carriage of Passengers, Cargoes and Rolling Cargoes
MV ORMOC STAR	Carriage of Passengers and Cargoes

Route/s to be served

Cebu City – Ormoc City and vice versa; Cebu City - Hilongos, Leyte and vice versa

Sailing Frequency(ies)/Schedule

DEPARTURE			ARRIVAL		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
Cebu	Daily	10:00 PM	Ormoc	Daily	2:00 AM
Ormoc	Daily	11:00 AM	Cebu	Daily	3:30 PM
Cebu	Daily	9:30 PM	Hilongos	Daily	2:00 AM
Hilongos	Daily	11:00 AM	Cebu	Daily	2:30 PM

Schedule of Rates (Per Link)

Passage Rates

LINKS		Type of Accommodation/Class	Rate
From	To		
Cebu City	Ormoc City	Suite	2,500.00
Ormoc City	Cebu City	Executive	550.00
		Business Class	440.00
		Premier	420.00
		Promenade	370.00
		Tourist	340.00
		Economy – Aircon	260.00
		Economy	230.00
Cebu City	Hilongos, Leyte	Cabin	340.00
Hilongos, Leyte	Cebu City	Tourist	240.00
		De Luxe	200.00
		Economy – A	180.00
		Economy – B	150.00

Cargo Rates

LINKS		Class A		Class B		Class C	
From	To						
Cebu City	Ormoc City	500.00	-	400.00	-	350.00	-
Ormoc City	Cebu City	500.00	-	400.00	-	350.00	-
Cebu City	Hilongos, Leyte	500.00	-	400.00	-	350.00	-
Hilongos, Leyte	Cebu City	500.00	-	400.00	-	350.00	-

RORO Rates

LINKS		Type of Vehicle	Cubic Meter	Rate / Unit
From	To			
Cebu	Ormoc	Van (Starex RV Series/Nissan Vanette/Nissan Shuttle/Mitsubishi L-300/Mitsubishi Space Gear/KIA Besta/KIA Pregio/Hyundai Vans/Toyota Grandia/Toyota Lite-Ace/Toyota Hi-Ace)	12	2,160.00
Ormoc	Cebu	Pick-Up (Ford Ranger/Mitsubishi L-200 Endeavor/Mazda/Nissan Double Cab Sieres/Nissan Frontier/Nissan Pathfinder/Toyota Hi-lux/Strada/Toyota Hi-lux/Strada Series/Isuzu Fuego/Isuzu D-Max)	8	2,160.00
		Heavy Cars – 3 doors (Mitsubishi Pajero/Toyota Landcruiser/Toyota Prado/Isuzu Trooper)	8	2,400.00
		Heavy Cars – 5 doors (Mitsubishi Pajero/Chevrolet Suburban/Chevrolet Tahoe/Toyota Landcruiser/Toyota Prado/Toyota Surf/Toyota Fortunner/Nissan Terrano/Nissan Patrol Series/Isuzu Trooper/BMW Series/BMW X-5 (4 x 4)/Ford Excursion/Ford Explorer/Ford Expedition/Ford F150/Ford E150 van/MB 100 Mercedes Benz van/Mercedes Benz Series)	8	3,120.00
		Cars – (Mitsubishi Adventure/Mitsubishi Outlander/Isuzu Crosswind/Isuzu Highlander/Honda CRV Series/Honda HRV Series/Nissan X-trail/Toyota Revo/Toyota Tamaraw FX/Toyota Rav4/Ford Escape/Ford Everest/Suzuki Vitara/Suzuki Grand Vitara)	8	2,160.00
		Cars (Honda Civic/Honda City/Chevrolet/Toyota Corolla Series/Toyota Altis/Toyota Corona/Toyota carry/Nissan Sentra Series/Nissan Blue Bird/Nissan Maxima/Nissan Cefiro/KIA Pride/Ford Lynx/Mitsubishi Lancer/Mitsubishi Gallant/Mitsubishi Eclipse)	8	1,920.00
		Mitsubishi Canter wide	20	3,000.00
		Isuzu Forward Pick-Up	20	3,840.00
		Isuzu Forward w/ boom/crane Mistubishi Canter wide w/ boom/crane	20	4,200.00
		Isuzu Elf pick-up Isuzu Elf dump truck Mitsubishi dump-truck Mitsubishi canter Toyota Dyna Toyota Dyna dump-truck Jeepney passenger type	20	2,760.00
		Isuzu Elf Aluminum Van Toyota Dyna aluminum van Mitsubishi canter aluminum van	20	3,360.00
		Isuzu Elf refrigerated van Mitsubishi refrigerated van Toyota Dyna refrigerated van	20	3,600.00
		Isuzu Elf pick-up Isuzu Elf dump-truck Mitsubishi dump-truck Mitsubishi canter Toyota Dyna Toyota Dyna dump-truck	20	3,000.00
Cebu	Ormoc	Isuzu Aluminum van Mitsubishi canter aluminum van Toyota Dyna aluminum van	10	3,600.00
Ormoc	Cebu	Isuzu Elf refrigerated van Mitsubishi refrigerated van Toyota Dyna refrigerated van	20	3,960.00
		Suzuki single cab (pick-up) Suzuki 5 doors van Suzuki Aluminum van Suzuki Refrigerated van Suzuki dump-truck Suzuki tamaraw type Daihatsu single cab (pick-up) Daihatsu 5 doors van Daihatsu aluminum van Daihatsu refrigerated van Daihatsu dump-truck	20	1,560.00

FOR TRAMP OPERATION:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s Offered/to be Offered
MV STAR BACOLOD	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MV DONA SEBASTIANA	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passengers terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on May 31, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR., this 23rd day of May 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI – May 25, 2005)

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Are car fuel-saving devices a hoax or not?

By Tessa R. Salazar

First of two parts

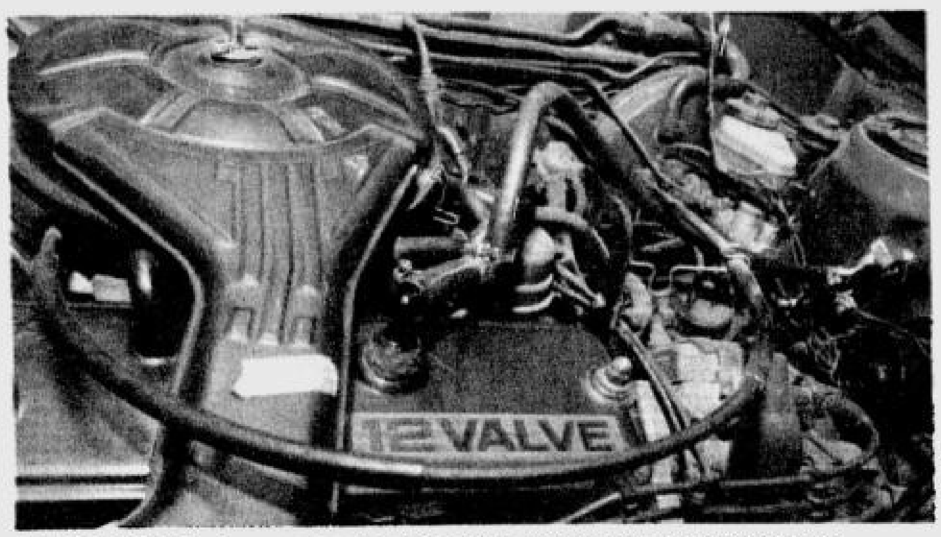
DO the gas saving devices promising fuel savings of as much as 40 to 50 percent actually work?

Going by word-of-mouth testaments or detestations from motorists who have actually installed such devices on their cars, the real answer seems to be further out of reach the more users you ask feedback from.

A group of University of the Philippines professors, however, has had enough of the "baseless" arguments for or against the fuel-saving devices cropping up in the market.

For the group, the scientific process of testing and experimentation should settle the issue. The numbers and figures resulting from the experiments would speak for themselves.

ARE/ C3



FUEL-SAVING devices, such as the Khaos Super Turbo Charger, have become increasingly popular among the motoring public. RAFFY LERMA

A Born Lifeguard

The Nissan Frontier is built, some would even say over engineered, for safety.

Records of the Truck Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (TMAP) show, the Frontier has been the undisputed top-selling double cab compact pickup for four consecutive years. It has also been the vehicle of choice for people who literally put their lives on the line - police, media men and broadcast journalists. And while these owners laud the legendary Nissan Frontier for its tough, blue-collar work ethic, many of them also give an enthusiastic thumbs-up to its life-saving engineering.

Every Frontier is built according to Nissan's Zone Body Concept: an entire system of features designed to maximize survivability in the event of a collision. The Zone Body system divides the vehicle into two areas: a crushable impact zone, which absorbs the energy of a crash, and a rigid safety zone, that encloses the driver and passengers, protecting them from harm.

In the impact zone, creases in the hood structure allow the metal to buckle at certain points, so it doesn't punch into the cabin during frontal impact. The entire zone crumples, absorbing most of the force of a crash.

The safety zone, on the other hand, acts like a tough shell - it stays rigid, shielding the occupants from harm. Pipe style beams embedded in the door also guard against side impact. Within this zone, many other features also come into play, namely, three-point safety belts and a driver side airbag.

Beneath the carriage, Nissan's penchant for safety over engineering becomes even more apparent. The Frontier rides on a skeleton unlike any other. Many truck makers will make do with chassis constructed of partial length, box section rails with four crossbeams. Frontiers, however, are the only ones built on ladder frames with an extra cross member. The rails are full length, forged from thicker, denser metal, and sturdily welded. The differences here are crucial. Fewer joints and the extra crossbrace means you get maximum strength with less twisting, for a more stable ride.

The Frontier is powered by the largest diesel engines in its class: 3.2 or 2.7 liter, 4 cylinder in-line that churn out 103 horsepower and 216 Nm of torque (84 hp and 176 Nm of torque for 2.7 liter). It is this power that gives the pickup its quick, eager response. The slightest tap on the accelerator moves the truck forward, and drivers claim it handles ably in crisis situations.

Frontiers also sport a Load Sensing Valve that measures the weight in the truck bed and sends more force to the rear brakes when necessary. A limited slip differential reallocates power to the wheels that have a firmer grip on the road to prevent sliding, even when carrying large loads.

Nissan Frontiers have proven their worth in more than 60 countries, and have endured the worlds longest, most evil of test tracks - the Dakar Rally. Consistent leaders at crucial stages of the race, they have withstood scorching days, freezing nights, and the rough-and-tumble demands of desert driving.

The Nissan Frontier is assembled and distributed by Universal Motors Corporation, and is available in 4x4 and 4x2, with manual or automatic transmission.

ADVT.

My Frontier

"If it wasn't a Frontier, we probably would not have survived."

On March 30, 2005, Joey R. Rillo was driving down South Super Highway with his wife in their Frontier automatic. They were on their way to Laguna to watch their daughter receive an academic award. They never made it.

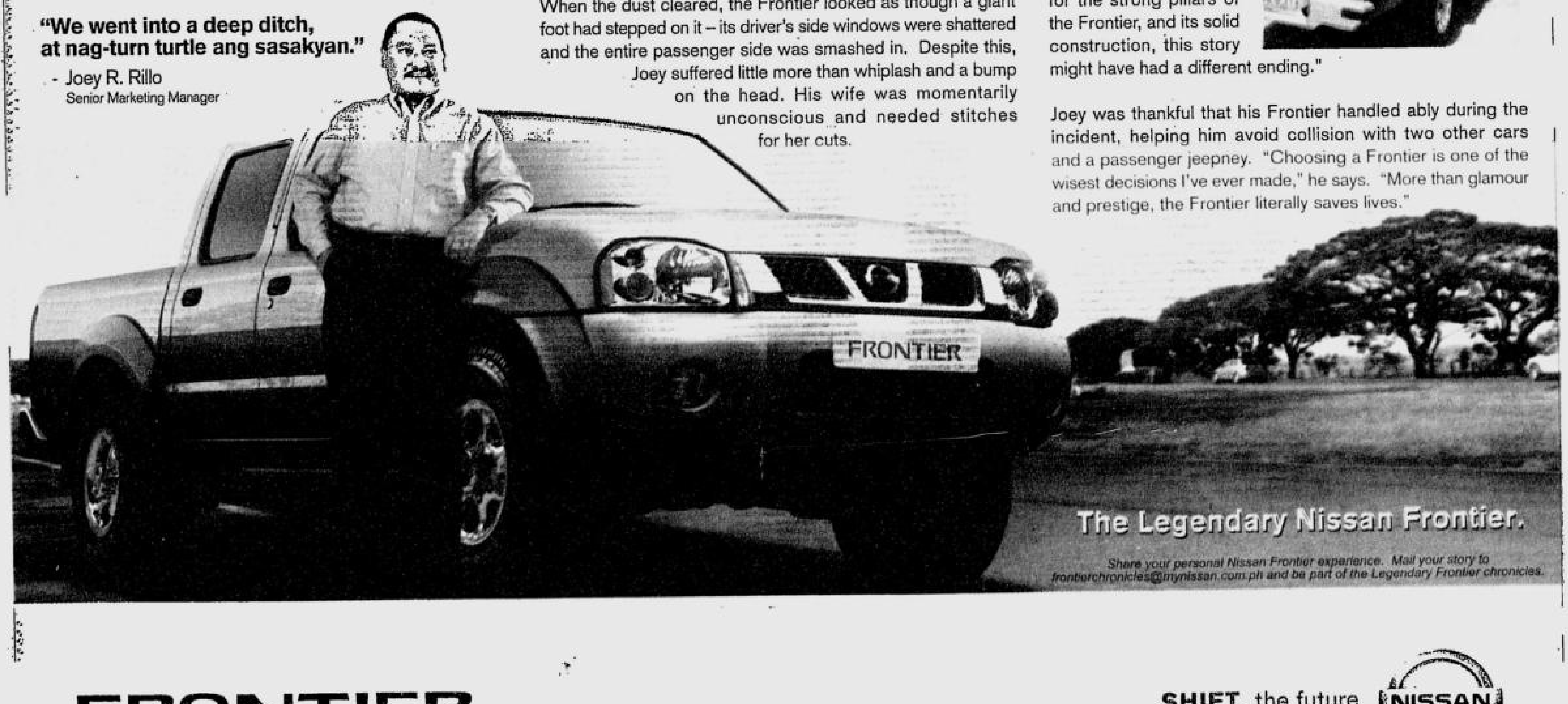
A speeding delivery van suddenly cut into their lane, forcing Joey's Frontier onto the shoulder. Running out of road, the truck hit a highway border post, rammed through a fence then rolled into a ditch. It flipped over several times before landing back on its wheels, some eight meters from the road above.

When the dust cleared, the Frontier looked as though a giant foot had stepped on it – its driver's side windows were shattered and the entire passenger side was smashed in. Despite this, Joey suffered little more than whiplash and a bump on the head. His wife was momentarily unconscious and needed stitches for her cuts.

"My daughter told me later on, she thanked God for giving back her parents," Joey recalls. "It's a good thing I was driving a Frontier and not a car that day. If it weren't for the strong pillars of the Frontier, and its solid construction, this story might have had a different ending."

Joey was thankful that his Frontier handled ably during the incident, helping him avoid collision with two other cars and a passenger jeepney. "Choosing a Frontier is one of the wisest decisions I've ever made," he says. "More than glamour and prestige, the Frontier literally saves lives."

"We went into a deep ditch, at nag-turn turtle ang sasakyan."
- Joey R. Rillo
Senior Marketing Manager



The Legendary Nissan Frontier.

Share your personal Nissan Frontier experience. Mail your story to fronterchronicles@mynissan.com.ph and be part of the Legendary Frontier chronicles.

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3 YEAR WARRANTY 100K KM

Disabled man rediscovers the joys of driving after 14 years

FOR BEING able to drive once again Castro says it improved his self-esteem as well as gave him hope and sense of freedom.

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

ROGELIO Castro arrived early in his office, a bank in Rosario, Cavite, not knowing this particular day would change his life.

As he walked in, he was grabbed by a lone robber who already held at gunpoint his colleague.

Says Castro: "Apparently, the robber who had entered overnight by breaking through the building was waiting for a staff who could open the bank vault. But as more of my officemates were coming in and realized his situation was fast becoming hopeless, he panicked and pulled the trigger."

Unfortunately, the only shot that was fired before the robber was overpowered hit Castro in the back damaging his spine.

Paralyzed

"I came out of surgery paralyzed from waist down. I was devastated to say the least," relates Castro who is now 40-years-old, 14 years since that fateful incident.

It took him some time to recover from the incident but instead of wallowing in grief forever, Castro began picking up the pieces.

He enrolled in a rigorous, physical therapy program to make himself stronger physically and emotionally.

Soon his desire for independence grew.

"After over a decade lapse in car driving, I decided it's time to re-learn," says Castro who installed contraptions in his car so he could control the pedals with his hand.

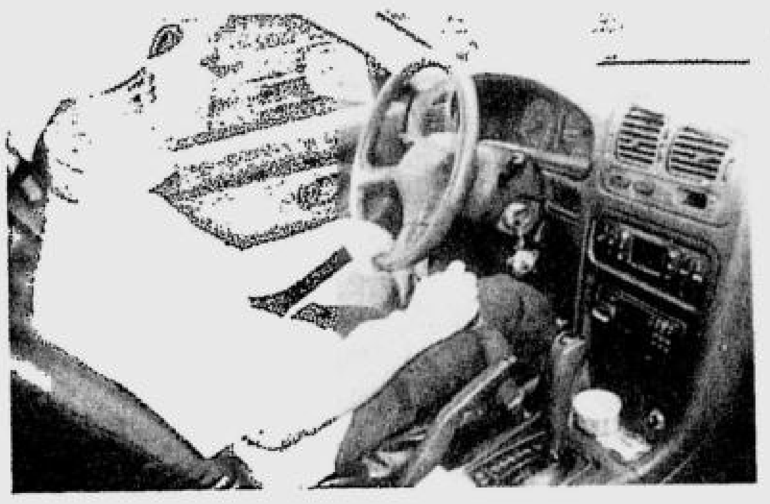
Disapproved

But the contraption was disapproved when he brought the car for inspection to the Land Transportation Office, a requirement when Castro applied for a driver's license.

Under the Republic Act 7277 disabled persons shall be allowed to drive motor vehicles, subject to the rules and regulations issued by the LTO pertinent to the nature of their disability and the appropriate adaptations or modifications made on vehicles.

"Help came when I began looking for companies that specializes in converting vehicles so it could adapt to people with disabilities," reminisces Castro.

THE CAROSPEED'S ergonomic design fits in almost seamlessly into the driver's cockpit.



CASTRO only has to control a stick with his right hand to control the car's accelerator and brake.

His search led him to Caparas Sr. Street in Barrio Ugong, Pasig City where PBC Car Adapt Inc. is located.

PBC Car Adapt is the country's exclusive distributor of products manufactured by Auto Adapt, a Sweden-based company that develops and manufactures car adaptation products and solutions for the elderly and mobility-impaired individuals.

Automatic Galant

As a requirement, Castro needed a vehicle with automatic gearbox so he bought a 1995 Mitsubishi Galant where PBC Car Adapt installed a Carospeed product—a hand-operated accelerator and brake control that would give Castro the right feeling when driving.

"I was excited when I showed the modification, which the LTO approved immediately and afterward, issued me a driver's license. Now I can take myself wherever I wanted to go," says Castro who uses his car for his business (an Internet café) in Rosario, Pasig.

The Carospeed installed in Castro's car is a floor-mounted hand control with mechanical transmission to the accelerator and brake pedals.

"It is ergonomically styled and shaped to fit in with the rest of the car interior since the cables are concealed under carpeting and behind panels. It's so simple: pull the lever backward and the vehicle accelerates, push forward and it will brake," explains PBC Car Adapt president Ernesto Carillo who started the company in 1989 together with his sister Juliet Quimel.

As standard feature, the hand control is also equipped with a hill-holder, which keeps the vehicle still while the hand moves between the gear lever, regulator or hand brake.

Others can use the car

"Unlike other contraptions that makes the car exclusive for the disabled driver's use, Carospeed allows other people to drive the car—deactivate the system and one can again use the pedals. Or whenever his legs feel tired, he can engage the system anytime without much difficulty," assures Carillo.

PBC Auto Adapt has been leading the way in developing and manufacturing car adaptation products for 20 years, Quimel explains.

"All the products that we install are CE-marked and meets safety requirements from all major car manufacturers," assures Quimel.

Apart from Carospeed products, PBC Car Adapt also installs these Auto Adapt products:

- **Carony**—a wheelchair that doubles as a car seat, thus eliminating the need to lift the individual when going in or out of the vehicle.
- **Turnout**—swivel base for car seat to make entering or exiting a vehicle much easier.
- **Turny**—swiveling car seat with lifter for vehicles with higher step up.
- **Carolift**—a lifter system that carries the wheelchair to or from the vehicle's storage area.

"Like our principal partner, we want our customers to be able to return to the lifestyle they enjoyed before their disability," says Quimel.

For Castro it's more than the enjoyment: "Although my paralysis has greatly reduced my mobility, my being able to drive again improved my self-esteem as well as gave me hope and, of course, a sense of freedom."

Motorists' safety stressed at new North Luzon Expressway

THE SAFETY of motorists along the new North Luzon Expressway received a big boost as the Manila North Tollways Corp. took the initial steps to promote and inculcate a safety campaign among users of the tollway.

The campaign kicked off with the launch of the New NLE Motorist's Handbook by the MNTC and Tollways Management Corp. to guide drivers while traveling along the new expressway.

"The new NLE is about people—driving as motorists and riding as passengers. It is a toast to every traveler who is safe and comfortable at home, and must be equally safe and comfortable—if not safer and more comfortable—in the new North Luzon Expressway," said MNTC chair Oscar M. Lopez.

Important actor

MNTC president Jose P. de Jesus stressed that the handbook "is our way of saying that the motorist is as much an important actor to assure the realization of our top three goals within the NLE: enhanced safety, greater comfort and more economical travel."

TMC president Anthony Mabasa sought the motorists' "cooperation by driving safely and by observing basic road courtesy."

"Sharing this world-class expressway with other motorists comes with certain responsibilities. These include knowing and obeying traffic rules and giving full attention to driving in an expressway," said Mabasa.

Travel manual

The 114-page handbook is a full-color travel manual and companion and the first such initiative in the expressway business. It features general tips for driving in the new expressway, handling emergencies, road signs and signals, and traffic rules and regulations.

The handbook was launched before media and special guests at the Operations and Management Center in Balintawak.

Copies given

Lopez gave copies of the handbook to officers of public transport groups including Juan Nicolas Bangalan, president of the Sto. Niño Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association plying the Meycauayan-Monumento route; and Agripino Bautista, president of the FX operators and drivers association traveling the Malolos-Tutuban route.

He said the motorist's handbook "contains everything about the gospel of road safety, comfort and economy."

The handbook explains in detail the features of the 84-kilometer NLEX, locations of the 100 emergency call boxes along the north and south bound lanes of the expressway, and detailed maps of the different exits and interchanges.

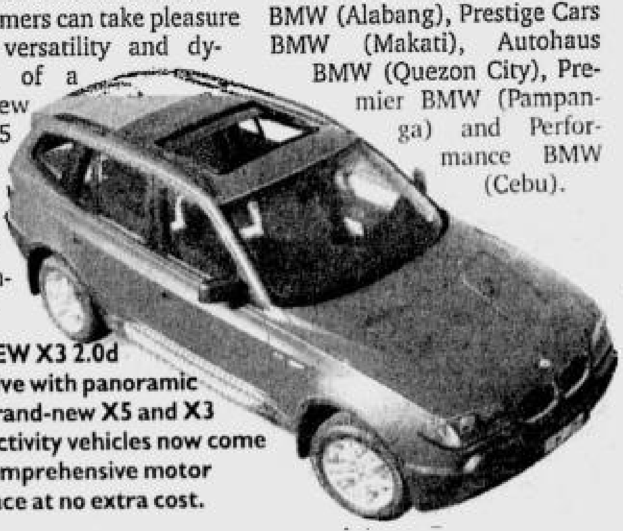
Mabasa announced that the handbook will be distributed to motorists at a very low subsidized price. A newsprint version will also be printed and distributed free to public utility vehicles as part of the service commitment of the TMC.

BMW offers additional value protection on X5, X3

LIKE all other products in the BMW model range, the X5 and X3 sport activity vehicles (SAVs) represent worthy investments in sheer driving pleasure. Now, in addition to exceptional product substance and high residual value, BMW Philippines is offering complementary value protection on brand-new X5 and X3 units.

Customers can take pleasure in the versatility and dynamism of a brand-new BMW X5 or X3 and enjoy the security of comprehensive motor insurance for three years at no extra cost. This innovative offer, which is valid until May 30, protects the buyers' investment while providing substantial savings on the standard cost of ownership.

The X5 and X3 SAVs, together with the latest BMW models, are available at all authorized BMW dealers—Autozentrum BMW (Alabang), Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Autohaus BMW (Quezon City), Premier BMW (Pampanga) and Performance BMW (Cebu).



THE NEW X3 2.0d Executive with panoramic roof. Brand-new X5 and X3 sport activity vehicles now come with comprehensive motor insurance at no extra cost.

Volvo ushers in Cebu City partner

VOLVO is rolling on to new grounds in the Philippines. Through the formal dealer agreement signing recently held at the Tower Club, Viking Cars Inc. forged a new partnership with Pasajero Motors Corp. (Pamocor).

Lawyer Alberto Arcilla, together with Volvo Cars Asia regional business manager Geoffrey Wood, welcomed Pamocor president Franklyn Ong as its new addition to the Volvo family.

Showroom opening

Pamocor will officially open its showroom doors to Volvo clients in Cebu City in July this year. The new Volvo dealership on A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, sits on a 300-square-meter area where a showroom and a service workshop that will attend to the after-sales needs of the existing Volvo clients in the Visayas area.

"It is with the same confidence, faith and optimism that I have signed the agreement between us, an engagement that I foresee will bring benefit not only to both our companies, but more importantly, to the market we serve," Ong said.

The Cebu-born corporation has been in the automotive industry since August 1991 and has made a name for itself as the maker of the renowned Pasajero PUVs, a very popular, well-accepted and reliable transport vehicle in the Visayas and Mindanao. In August 2002, Pilipinas Hino Inc. has appointed Pamocor as the exclusive dealer of brand-new Hino trucks and buses in Regions 7 and 8 including its genuine parts.

LAWYER Alberto Arcilla of Viking Cars Inc. hands over the Volvo Grille to Pamocor president Franklyn Ong. With them is Volvo Cars Asia regional business manager Geoffrey Wood.

Safe, dynamic cars

Volvo recognizes the capabilities of and expresses confidence in its partnership with Pamocor. With the desire to provide for the needs of the burgeoning premium car market in Cebu and other nearby cities, Volvo has extended its reach and makes available to the market one of the world's most safe and dynamic cars.

The promise of safety is what differentiates Volvo from other cars. Volvo's founders emphasized from the outset that the company's operations centered on consideration for the human being. Safety, quality and care for the environment are thus core values that permeate operations, products and behaviors at Volvo Cars.

Official distributor

In Manila, Viking Cars Inc. is the official distributor of Volvo cars. The Volvo Makati office, showroom and Aftersales Service Center are located at 2272 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City while Volvo Ortigas Center is located at 88 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The 2005 Volvo automobile line includes the compact All-New S40 and V50 sportswagon, sporty S60, the flagship S80 luxury sedan, the rugged Cross Country and the award-winning XC90 AWD.

World leader in tires leads the way in Formula One

WHEN MCLAREN Mercedes driver Kimi Raïkkönen won the 52nd Monaco Grand Prix in convincing fashion, he was quick to pay tribute to his team and, most specially, tires.

"We have worked hard, and I think we have the best package out there at the moment. Once again thank you to the entire team and everybody at Michelin," Raïkkönen said.

Clean sweep

Winning on a set of Michelins that are capable of running close to 400 km on a twisting, turning, abrasive and bumpy circuit is truly amazing, but what is even more noteworthy is that Michelin took a clean sweep of the top six positions and remains unbeaten so far this season.

This year, the FIA, motor sport's governing body, adopted new rules in a bid to cut both running costs and cornering speeds. Although mid-race refueling stops are still permitted, drivers are no longer allowed to make tire changes during a race except when they are damaged. They are now also obliged to use the same set for qualifying as well as the full grand prix distance.

Although the new regulations posed problems for constructors and tire makers, Michelin's experience as a world leader in tires enabled the company to prepare for the 2005 F1 season.

Matter of routine

Said Michelin motor sports director Pierre Dupasquier: "Completing a grand prix distance on a single set of tires is nothing new. It was a matter of routine during most of our first stint in F1, between 1977 and 1984. We have looked back at some of the things we did during the 1970s and early 1980s, but you have to remember that technology has changed beyond measure since then."

Supporting seven teams also makes it necessary for Michelin to produce tires that are designed for various driving and design considerations. "We produced a range of tires that gave our partner teams strong, consistent and reliable performance in a wide range of climatic conditions," said Dupasquier.

Collective efforts

"The collective efforts of our engineers—at our Clermont-Ferrand base, as well as at the track—and our partner teams have given us a solid technical platform on which to build. This experience will enable us to fine-tune our options and our simulation techniques."

Michelin's commitment to produce tires for every driving need extends not only to F1 but, more importantly, to the thousands of drivers who ply the world's roads every day.

The experience and know-how developed by Michelin in motorsports such as F1 can also be found in street tires developed by the company, such as the Pilot Sport series, which provides exceptional performance, safety and comfort in every driving condition, as well as the durable and fuel-efficient Energy series.

In the Philippines, Michelin tires such as the Pilot Sport and Energy MX1 are distributed exclusively by Tiara Commercial & Industrial Corp. For more information, call 813-2786 and 813-2548.

FIRST-CLASS seating in the Freelander's roomy, leather-upholstered rear

CLASSY two-tone cockpit: the Freelander's beige and black leather interior is highlighted with silver trim.

THE FREELANDER'S 175 bhp, DOHC, 24-valve 2.5-liter V6 powerplant PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA

Freelander: Land Rover's junior SUV

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHEN IT COMES to combining impeccable luxury and all-terrain capability in a sport utility vehicle, nothing beats a Land Rover. No matter what American, German, Japanese and Korean competitors come up with, Land Rover remains, by heritage, the most prestigious SUV badge in the world. After all, its flagship Range Rover pioneered the luxury SUV genre some 30 years ago, gathering international awards along the way.

Land Rover has retained its British upper class cachet despite its having been acquired by the German carmaker BMW and then sold to America's second largest auto manufacturer, Ford Motor Co., in 2000. But this change in ownership has not prevented Land Rover's engineers from borrowing the best aspects of BMW technology.

Take, for example, the five-speed automatic gearbox mated to the engine of the Freelander, Land Rover's compact SUV. The gearbox looks and functions like a BMW Steptronic with a Sport Mode and a Command Shift. And it shifts as smoothly as a BMW's. The Freelander's Hill Descent Control system also came from BMW.

Safari-ready

On the other hand, you could never mistake the Freelander for an X3, BMW's baby SUV. The Freelander looks more adventurous and tougher, more safari-ready with headlights protected by impact-resistant clear lens, protective rubber guards on the front bumper and over the wheel arches plus bibs underneath both bumpers. The new, multifaceted headlights, reshaped bumpers and mesh-screen grille—all different from the 2002 model—make the Freelander more akin to its bigger siblings, the Range Rover and Discovery.

The two-tone interior of the Freelander is elegant with beige perforated leather seats, beige door panels, black dashboard and center console, a thick, beige-and-black leather-wrapped four-spoke steering wheel and silver trim on the dials, door handles, both sides of the stereo façade and around the gear selector. Great sounds are provided by a Harman Kardon AM/FM radio/six-disc CD changer with eight speakers and fingertip controls on the steering wheel.

The low waistline, humpback roof and abundant window glass plus the high position of the driver's seat give you a commanding view of the road that is typical of a Land Rover. The first time you take the chunky wheel of the Freelander and step on the gas, you will find it heavy and wonder about the touted 175 bhp of the 2.5-liter, DOHC, 24-valve V6 engine. Perhaps it requires 10.1 seconds to hit 100 km per hour from zero because of the fully automatic, permanent 4WD system and 3,600 lbs curb weight. But you learn to appreciate the Freelander's solidness when the going gets rough.

Off-road vitality

For while the Freelander was not designed for swift acceleration, it compensates with off-road vitality. Although, unlike other Land Rovers, the Freelander has no transfer case and ladder frame, its Traction Control including Hill Descent Control, Limited Slip Differential, torquey engine (240 Nm at 4,000 rpm max torque), decent ground clearance, flexible approach and departure angles, long suspension travel and deep water-fording ability make it more capable of off-roading than other unibody compact SUVs like the Toyota RAV4 or Honda CR-V.

On pavement, the Freelander drives and rides as smoothly and as comfortably as a luxury sedan, soaking up bumps and not bouncing over road humps. The brakes are strong and handling is like a grand touring limo's. The supple ride quality is due to McPherson struts and coil springs front and rear with anti-roll bar up front and trapezoidal links in the back. There is some body lean when cornering, but that is to be expected of any tall SUV.

Because of its heavy weight, the Freelander drinks a lot of fuel. Optimistic estimated fuel consumption is 7.1 km per liter in city driving, 8.8 km per liter on the highway.

Roomy

That said, the Freelander comfortably accommodates five well-fed adults including driver with its supportive leather seats, high ceiling and roomy rear. And there are convenient features galore: two cupholders on top of the dash, two glove boxes, a compartment for sunglasses in the overhead console, plenty of storage points including two pocket nets in the ceiling, a tailgate that opens sideways and a retractable rear window.

The rear seat can be folded to increase cargo volume, which with the back seat in place measures 19.1 cubic feet. Two front airbags, ventilated disc brakes in front and drum brakes at the rear with ABS and EBD, fog lights front and rear, keyless entry with alarm and seatbelt pretensioners are standard equipment.

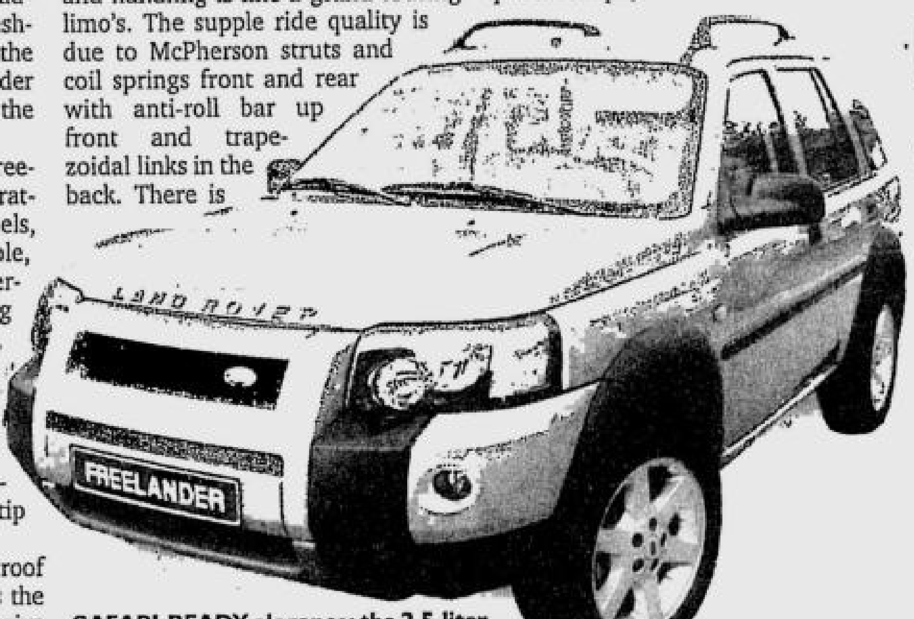
Summing up, if high speed is not as important to you as moderate off-road capability, first-class creature comforts, a carlike ride and the respect commanded by the Land Rover marque, consider the Freelander ... if you can afford its P2.95 million price tag, that is.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Adults are just kids with money.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)



SAFARI-READY elegance: the 2.5-liter V6 Land Rover Freelander

Toyota's dominance extends up to Europe

JUST as the field is eating so much dust from its spectacular array of new models (Hi-Lux, Innova, Hi-Ace and Fortuner), Toyota has gone a step higher in diesel engine production by unwrapping its latest model: a new 2.2-liter diesel engine which will be first fitted in a Toyota model now being manufactured in England.

The model called Avensis in Europe will have an annual production of 180,000 units, encompassing the 177 DIN hp and 150 DIN hp versions of the new four-cylinder diesel engine. Toyota's current staff of 350 employees in the United Kingdom will increase to an approximately 900 employees in 2006, while total investment in the plant, according to Danny Isla of TMP, amounts to 200 million euros.

In 2005, Toyota's manufacturing operations will count eight manufacturing plants in six countries—UK, France, Poland, Turkey, Portugal and the Czech Republic.

"Toyota's relations with Poland continue to strengthen, thanks to the start of production of our cutting-edge diesel engine at TMIP," said Shinichi Sasaki, president and CEO of Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing Europe. "Our other plant in Poland began engine production and increased its transmission capacity in January—a clear indication of our belief that Poland is a valuable economic and business partner. We also would like to thank Toyota's many Polish family members for their dedication toward offering superior quality that always puts the customer first," Sasaki said.

Toyota's other Polish plant—the Toyota Motor Manufacturing Poland (TMMP)—began production of manual transmissions in April 2002.

Do you know that Toyota has linked up with Peugeot Citroën of France?

In January 2005, TMMP started production of a new gasoline engine and manual transmission, to be used in the forthcoming small passenger cars made jointly by Toyota and PSA Peugeot Citroën. Targeted annual production capacity for the 1.0-liter engine and manual transmission will be 250,000 units and 300,000 units respectively, bringing TMMP's eventual total transmission production capacity to 550,000 units. Total employment at TMMP will reach approximately 1,800 employees by the end of 2005, while total investment amounts to 400 million euros.

The Toyota Peugeot Citroën Automobile Czech (TPCA) plant in Kolin, Czech Republic, is a joint venture between Toyota and PSA Peugeot Citroën. This year, the TPCA will start manufacturing 300,000 small passenger cars, of which 100,000 will be Toyota AYGOs, with the remainder allocated to the Peugeot and Citroën brands.

Toyota achieved an eighth consecutive record year of sales in Europe in 2004. With 915,966 vehicles delivered—24,913 Lexus and 891,053 Toyota—Toyota saw sales rise by 10 percent over the previous year, in a total market up 2 percent. This resulted in a market share of 5 percent—the highest market share ever for Toyota in Europe. Toyota also produced 582,695 cars, 494,635 engines and 195,163 transmissions at its plants in the UK, France, Turkey and Poland.

For 2005, Toyota has set the target of selling 980,000 Toyota and Lexus vehicles in Europe.

Who said it is only here in the Philippines that Toyota is dominating the field?

As early as last December, some of Toyota's major rivals have conceded, and confided, to me that 2005 is Toyota year—again.

"We will just let the year pass by, grieving within the confines of our boardrooms," said one. "We can only prepare for 2006."

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

* * *

It's really time to rehabilitate the Southern Luzon Expressway in the mold of the Northern Luzon Expressway. Motorists repeatedly grumble while covering SLEX, especially on weekends.

Last Sunday, May 22, alone, I had another bad experience at SLEX. So did thousands of motorists. We were on a snail's pace starting from the Star Highway in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, exit up to Alabang. What would normally amount to only about a 45-minute ride from there lasted two hours! Reason: the expressway could no longer accommodate the volume of vehicles traversing it, especially on a Sunday when vacationers and picnickers come home from the resorts in Laguna. And to think that I was there about 7:30 p.m., after I had left Lipa City at 7 p.m. where I covered the 89th Philippine Open at the beautiful golf course of architect Antonio A. Turalba Sr.—the Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club.

As I said, if not for the Skyway, the SLEX is a good-for-nothing piece of road. It has virtually outlived its usefulness.

* * *

ISUZU EYE. If you haven't seen the new Isuzu SUV yet, you are missing a lot. Go, take a look at it. Its 4JJ-1 I-TEQ engine, the third-generation common-rail direct-injection diesel engine, is a wonder of wonders. It will totally alter everything that you know and believe about diesel engines.

* * *

Mitsubishi scored it big in the recent 26th Bangkok International Motor Show when its Grandis and Strada won the prestigious Car of the Year awards.

The Grandis (Space Wagon in Thailand) was voted the Best MPV and the Strada pickup the Best Export Pickup. Also drawing large numbers of visitors to Mitsubishi Motors pavilion was the Lancer Evolution IX high-performance 4WD sport sedan that is making its stage debut in Southeast Asia.

Grandis, unfurled in Japan in 2003, is a lifestyle-enriching, next-generation minivan. The domestic launch was followed by exports to Europe and Australia. Produced locally at Mitsubishi Motors (Thailand) Co. Ltd.'s Laemchabang factory, Grandis went on sale throughout Thailand in October 2004. It has total sales of approximately 2,000 vehicles in the four months since its launch in February 2005. The company started exporting the built-in-Thailand Grandis to the Philippines in January this year.

The Strada pickup went into production in 1995 in Thailand. The model is now exported to over 140 markets around the world (excluding North America.) With cumulative exports topping 600,000 units in February 2005. Strada has proven to be a key model in the company's lineup.

In the Philippines, the Strada is one of the favorites in the pickup category and it has been the No. 1 bestseller 4x4 pickup from 1997 to 2003 while the Grandis, which was just introduced this January, is fast becoming a popular high-end MPV in the country.

* * *

QUOTE ME. All new cars are nice—until an owner starts complaining.

Are car fuel-saving devices a hoax or not?

From page C1

Industry-wide test

Professors from the mechanical engineering department of UP added that an industry-wide test of all the fuel savings devices being sold in the market should be done on all vehicles currently running on Philippine roads.

They also stressed that all sectors involved, from the car manufacturers to government agencies to the public and even the inventors of the devices themselves, should participate or cooperate with such a comprehensive test.

"We hope the tests are done in the interest of finding out the truth. Does it or does it not work? To really settle that, *hindi puwedeng magpalitan lang ng* theoretical arguments. The bottom line after discussing a theory is to just test it," said Edwin Quiros, associate professor of the UP college of mechanical engineering.

UP mechanical engineering department chair Alexander Paran also said those who attest or detest the devices in question should show numbers first and be able to explain or duplicate their results before confirming or contradicting the claims of the inventors or developers of the devices.

"Let's be transparent with everything. If we want to test it, let's agree with the test procedure. And then test it. Everybody who has a stake in the results must be present during the test," said Quiros.

Fueled by the rising cost of petroleum products in recent months, fuel-saving devices, such as the Khaos Super Turbo Charger, have become increasingly popular among the motoring public. This, in turn, has sparked many coffee table discussions and media arguments over whether such devices actually work. Unending threads of car enthusiasts' forums continue to slam Khaos' claims.

Quiros said tests similar to those of the Environmental Protection Agency, or an underwriters' laboratory, would be more than welcome.

He said the EPA would most likely conduct the three-step test on a vehicle running without the device first, then testing the vehicle installed with the device, and finally retesting the subject vehicle with the device removed.

"When you remove the device, the performance of the vehicle should go back to the original figures," said Quiros.

Quiros stressed that should the budget for such a test be somewhat tight, a less-expensive controlled road test would do.

"Test them on a racetrack where your driving cycle is determined. You should be able to find out with a reasonable level of confidence whether the savings claimed (by the manufacturer) is achieved."

The cost of tests

Automotive experts note that testing such devices off the road would be more expensive because a chassis dynamometer would be used. Quiros said a chassis dynamometer costs between $25,000 and $55,000. One autoshop in Pasig reportedly lends its chassis dynamometer at P5,000 per hour.

"With a dynamometer, we could conclude if the device is working," said Alex Loinaz, an automotive technologist.

Loinaz added, however, that even if a device is tested on a chassis dynamometer, the device still has to be tested on an actual road run since the device may respond differently to different road conditions and different vehicle configurations.

"The data you extracted from the dynamo should eventually be what you get from the test-run to confirm the device really works," said Loinaz.

"The manufacturer must be able explain the scientific basis for the device's functions. If they say it's a secret, then it's a hoax. The US government once tested fuel-saving devices, and they all didn't work," he said.

Isuzu Philippines Corp development engineer Joseph Bautista said that aside from using a chassis dynamometer and conducting actual road tests, three identical vehicles are required for the test, and a run of at least 1,000 km for two groups: a group running on the device and another without.

Bautista said the Isuzu engineering team conducts road tests for 100,000 km for one year at a cost of P1 million. Isuzu randomly samples fuels available in the market to confirm if these fuels are suitable for its new engines to be launched in the Philippines.

Bautista stressed that for the tests to be conducted industry-wide, they should be government-initiated with the help of the company.endorsing (selling) these devices.

Owners' choice

Bautista said it would be up to the motorists if they wanted to use fuel-saving devices on their vehicles or not.

"We don't want to comment on whether we are for or against (these devices). What is terrifying, however, are the false, astronomical claims. You even see government officials endorsing these devices."

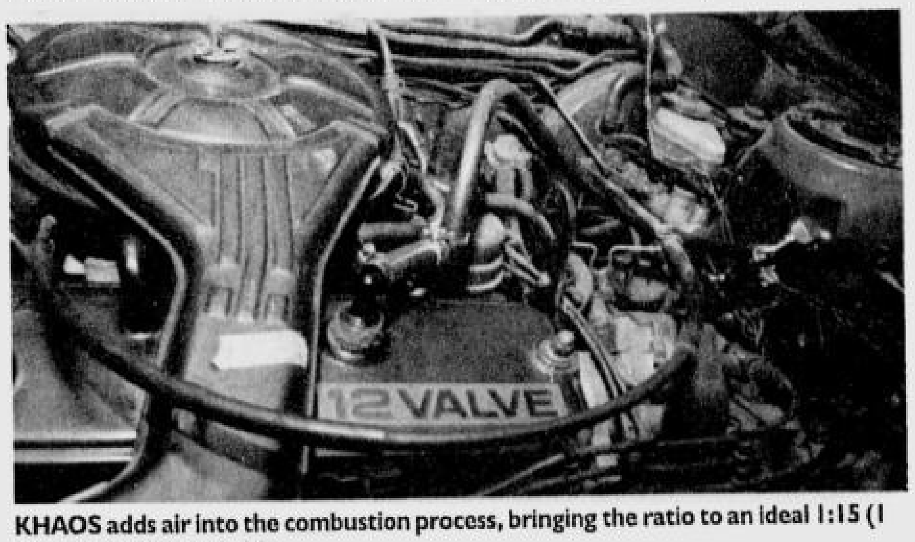
Bautista said he couldn't imagine how his mother company, in this case Isuzu Motors Corp. in Japan, would react once he himself broke the news that an independently developed device "corrected" something in its engine.

"It would be an insult to car companies that have invested millions of dollars for the engine's research and development on fuel consumption, power and reduction of emissions. These manufacturers have tried all possibilities to come up with the most efficient and most optimized air-fuel ratio," said Bautista.

Bautista referred to Khaos' inventor Pablo Planas, who claimed that an inherent defect on car engines made the car burn fuel inefficiently and produce hazardous emissions. Khaos, according to the inventor, adds air into the combustion process, bringing the ratio to an ideal 1:15 (1 part fuel to 15 parts air).

Toyota Motors Philippines' assistant vice president for after-sales service Allen Rufo revealed that his group is about to test Khaos "for the sake of curiosity."

"We have no plans of testing it formally. We just want to answer the questions of some of our bosses," Rufo said. He added that he hasn't decided yet if the test unit would be a Toyota vehicle.



KHAOS adds air into the combustion process, bringing the ratio to an ideal 1:15 (1 part fuel to 15 parts air).

BROCHURE photo of a Corolla GTS

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GODZILLA Hachiroku in Japan GT racing

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Hachiroku

CATCH MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

COMEBACKS and retro-chic are the in-thing these days. On top of the list of cool decades du jour must be the shoulder-padded and spray-net '80s. To many, everything about "the decade of conspicuous consumption" is cool and much-sought again, even after years of denying having ever owned a jeweled glove or pink neon spandex shorts. Case in point, drag prince Boy George is once again palatable albeit without his band (the Culture Club), a lot less mascara and as long as he's taken with a whole lot of drum and bass.

Enjoying an even more remarkable comeback in petrolhead pop culture is the AE86 Toyota Corolla Levin/Sprinter Trueno. First introduced in 1984 with a 120 bhp initial generation 4AG engine and rear-wheel drive, this car in its time, took the tuning world by storm. The combination of a lightweight frame, rear-wheel-drive, predictable handling, and an easily massaged engine probably should have ensured the attention of car nuts for generations to come. Its car design formula is one that even to this day reads plainly as performance oriented.

Competing in motorsport

Available in a three-door fastback and a two-door coupé, the chassis found itself competing respectably in many forms of motorsport, most notably circuit racing and rallying. Later versions of the AE86 would be available with the 140 bhp "high-horse" 4AGE with an ultimate 170 bhp version, powered by the 1.6-liter supercharged 4AGZE, known as the Corolla Levin GTZ, and was solely available to the Japanese domestic market.

Even as the car continued to enjoy popularity and cult status in Japan, its star was soon to fade elsewhere. In the US market, Toyota decided to pull the plug on the model even as early as 1988, inadvertently allowing another Japanese manufacturer's pocket rocket to take center stage.

Some pundits point to the resulting vacuum in the import sport compact segment as the foot in the door that allowed Honda to introduce in the United States its own twin-cam performer, the racy CRX coupé. The rest they say is history, with the Civic becoming the mainstream symbol of Japanese mass market performance.

The anvil of their success was the 160 bhp++ B16/B18 series of engines; and this point was hammered home by the then cutting-edge Variable Valve Timing and Electronic Lift Control (VTEC) concept. An entire generation of enthusiasts would not know about the legacy that the AE86 and older Toyota's laid down and the history lesson was still 10 odd years in the making.

Evolving performance

This was never the case in Japan, where their beloved and revered "hachiroku" (literally, "eighty-six" in Nihonggo) went on a ballistic trajectory of popularity and evolving performance. In the ultimate showcase of Japanese sports car racing, the JGTCC (Japan Grand Touring Car Championship), a Project μ sponsored AE86 Levin campaigned in the GT300 class until 2001. Prepared professionally to the 300 bhp class limit, this Corolla on anabolic steroids soldiered bravely in a field full to the brim with Porsche 911s.

The hachiroku also led the way in the popularization of drift-style exhibition driving and racing. At the top level of drifting, the D1GP, hachirokus can still be found trying to "out sideways" more modern and updated designs, like the Nissan S15 Sylvia and the Honda S2000. In such a motorsport of showmanship and style, the nimble chassis of the AE86 shows none of its age and regularly schools the competition.

The ultimate reverence to this automotive "idoru" (Japanese for idol) is its mainstream pop culture immortalization. In the drift culture world of the "Initial D" manga (comics) and anime (cartoons), a humble hachiroku takes center stage. In a storyline where the unassuming underdog beats the arrogant, better-equipped opposition, the starring AE86 is driven by a teenage tofu delivery man who outdrives established street racers and their multimillion yen Evos, Skylines and RX7s.

As fate would have it, the AE86 would make a return to America and once again remind the US market of its pedigree. The advent of the drift racing in the United States has allowed hordes of young American tuning fans to reacquaint themselves with what was sold as the 1984-1988 Corolla GTS in their country.

Aided by the Internet, Sony's Gran Turismo series of console games and owing to the increasing popularity of Initial D in the United States, the AE86 has poetically gone from "zero to hero" to an audience that was still in diapers when the car was sold new in showrooms. As more and more young tuners and import car enthusiasts look to the Japanese domestic market for trends and technique, the significant cult stature of the hachiroku will only be bolstered further.

Growing demand

Examples of this car are miraculously available in the Philippines, even though it was not sold locally by Toyota. A majority are private imports of racers and enthusiasts, while a few samples trace their history to the era of American bases in Pampanga and Zambales. Most of the "new" AE86s are converted surplus imports from Japan but these are getting fewer and far between as the demand for these over 20-year-old cars is growing on a global basis.

With rumors of drifting looming on the Philippine motorsport horizon, expect these cars to probably become a commodity. My advice to someone lucky enough to have an AE86 stashed away in his garage: congratulations, you've got a keeper.

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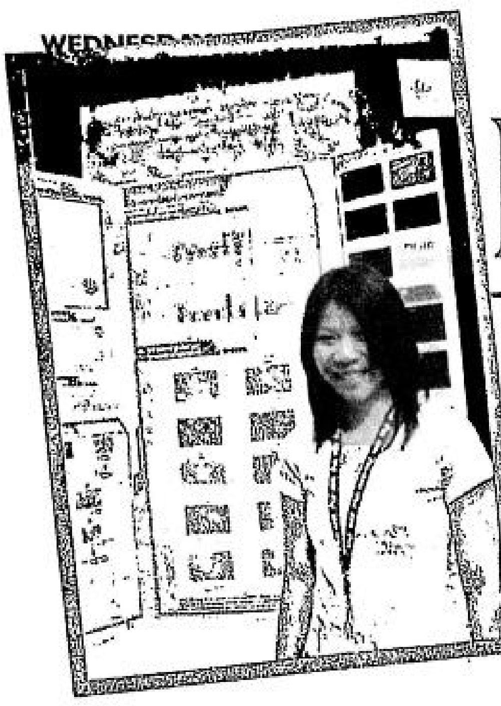

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Young minds, *Part 1* great ideas

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2. Follow the footsteps of siblings Douglas and Catherine Candano and let your talent touch other people's lives/ D2

3. Do what Jason Tablante is doing—capture life's beauty one photo at a time/ D2

4. Answer the call for great leaders, the same one the Hitachi Young Leaders are responding to/ D4

5. Make people stop and listen to music. That's what Shards of Ice is doing/ D2

6. Draw inspiration from the delegates of Intel's International Science and Engineering Fair and create science projects that not only challenge the mind but can change the world in amazing ways/ E1

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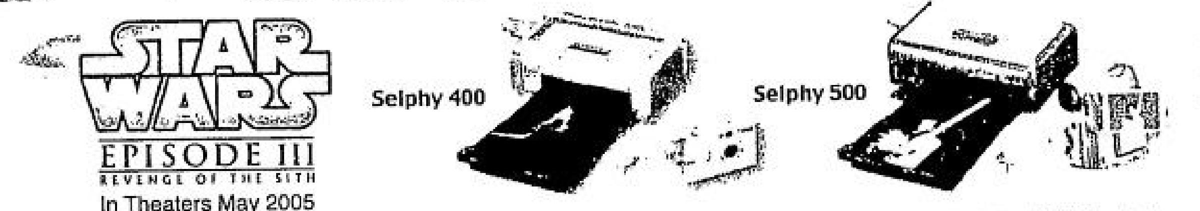

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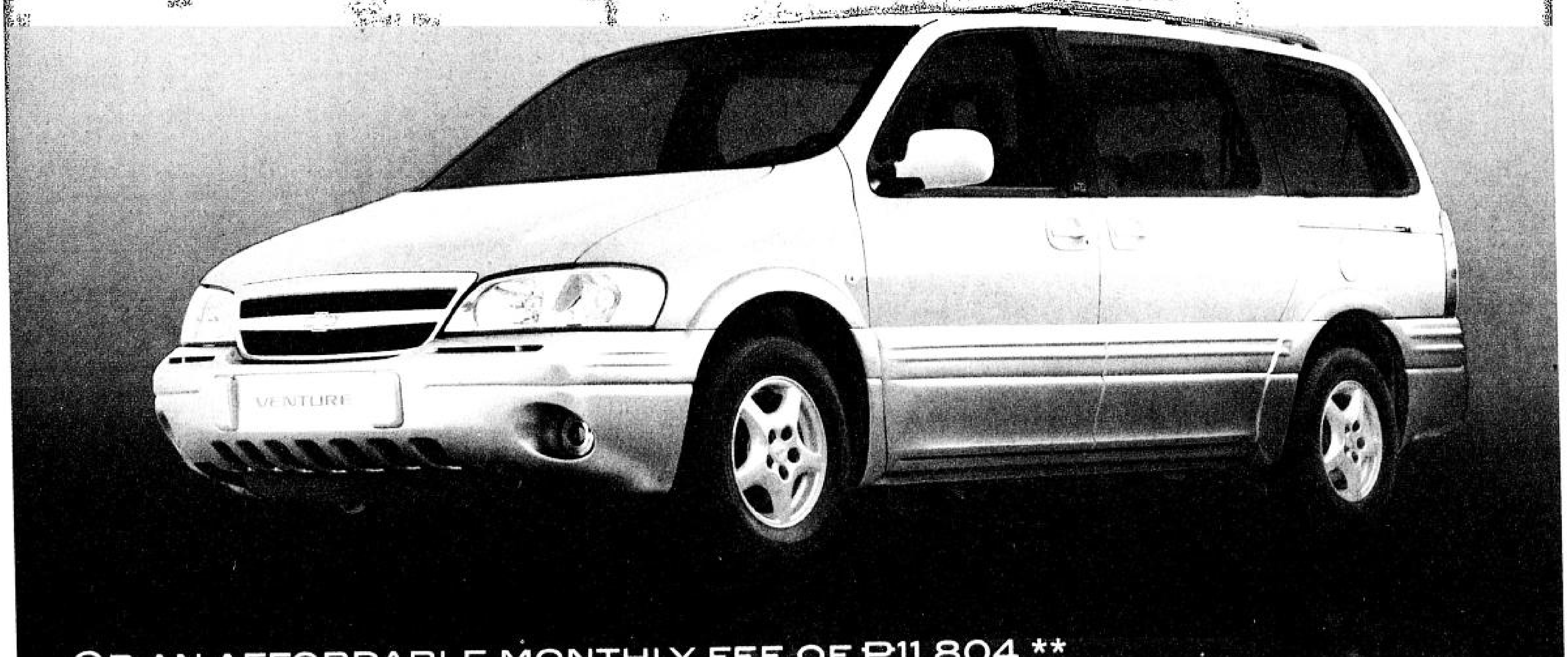

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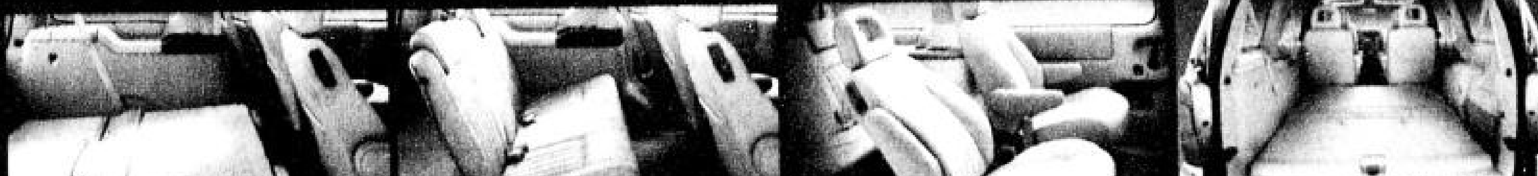

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Young metal band rocks

Shards of Ice sends icicles down my spine

By Paulino Servado
Contributor

GONE are the days of heavy metal—or so people say. Being the purist that I am, I had my mind set on believing that all of today's teens have been swallowed up by the bubblegum world of mainstream pop. To my surprise, three kids have shown great respect of the '80s classic metal genre, which surfaced long before they were old enough to rock any world outside of their mothers' wombs.

Raising my respect for today's not-so-jilted generation of post-'90s musical babies, came Shards of Ice, a three-piece metal band, with an average age of 14 ½ years old, dedicated to playing what they love the most, classic metal.

The band is composed of three talented youths, Dean Rosen, 15, on vocals/bass Griff Chatwin, 15, on guitars and Lex Adarme, 14, on the drums. Their main influences are Metallica, Iron Maiden, Slayer and, more recently, Sum41 and System of a Down.

For their age, the three members of the band demonstrate skill and knowledge of metal music far beyond their years, which support their growing popularity, as they have broken out of their school's audience (British International School), churning out metal that the local music scene has started to listen to.

Shards of Ice started a little over two years ago, led by Angelo (a former founding-member who moved to Egypt) and Dean. After Angelo's departure, Shards of Ice was left with their existing three-piece lineup. Among their achievements are the album released last year, winning this year's battle of the bands in La Salle Greenhills and being the opening band of the recent Summer Slam event.

I watched them at one of their jam sessions at Lex's house. I was gladly surprised and blown away with the songs that they played, ranging from classic metal tunes such as Metallica's "Master of Puppets" and Slayer's "Reign in Blood" (a song that I've only heard pro bands cover) to the Ramones' "Blitzkrieg Bop" and even a fun rendition of the Beatles' "Twist and Shout."

They showed talent and youthful energy with every head-banging riff and arm-flaying move they made. I was truly floored.

Dean's frantic head banging and raging vocals were impressive, as well as Griff's rock steady strumming, flowing from rhythm to lead guitars no sweat. Lex's abilities behind the drums were amazing.

The room was stocked with just a few amps and a drum set, and Shards of Ice really exuded the youthful garage-band vibe, truly making and playing music for themselves, the way independent music should be.

Asked if they were dark, angsty and suicidal teenagers since they played metal, they replied, "No! That's the crowd's job, we just wanna have fun playing metal. There's no better genre!"

They told me how they dodged beer bottles on stage during the Summer Slam gig and set off the first moshpit of the event.

My Shards of Ice experience ended with nostalgia, as I found myself in an intense metalhead discussion about their favorite bands and idols, and they even ordered their Metallica albums of preference (which is my staple test for any metal fanatic)!

They are now making songs for their second album, also to be released under Tiger Records. To get a well-worth-it listen, you can purchase their first album at any Odyssey, Tower Records and Music One outlet. Visit their website at www.shardsofice.cjb.net.

They will be playing at the upcoming Fete de la Musique event in June.

These guys really sent icicles down my spine and I'm sure that freezing hell over would just be their beginning. Keep an eye out for Shards of Ice, because for sure, you'll be hearing much more of them in the future!

LEX

DEAN

GRIFF

The talented Mr. Tablante

Text by Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent
Photo by Jason Tablante

At 24, Jason Tablante has gone from shooting high school cheerleaders to beauty contestants in bikinis

JASON Tablante is one of the hottest young professional photographers today. Which is why I'm surprised to find him in a faculty room in Ateneo. Apparently he's teaching students how to work wonders with Macromedia Flash.

"I've always liked computers, and growing up, I actually wanted to become a programmer," he says, while working on his iMac. "When I was in grade two, my sister had an IBM XT-you know, those computers with the green monitor. And she left old computer books so I literally copied the entire thing on the computer, and learned how to make IBM games."

You're probably confused. Let's start from the beginning.

Girl-deprived

It all started with cheerleaders.

The prodigy in Jason (who just turned 24-birthday candles blew out last week) sprung out when he was in sixth or seventh grade. "That's when I took up programming. I was encoding all these programs and changing the script to see what happens," he says.

His skill with the PC landed him the job of layout director and graphic designer at Ateneo's high school publication, Hilites Magazine, which also introduced him to the many perks of being a photographer.

"You know how all-boys school students are really girl-deprived," he says, laughing. "So whenever we'd have intramurals, and these girls would come over... Well, who had the license to shoot them? It's either the photo editor or the photo club. And since my position is higher than any of them, I said, let me take the photos!"

He then borrowed his father's semi-idiot camera and got clicking.

But back then, photography was more of a hobby. By college, Jason was already earning from designing websites (he was acknowledged by Microsoft as "Microsoft Asia's Most Valuable Professional" in 2002), and photography was just something he did on the side. It was a gig from a magazine that found him picking up a camera more often than a computer mouse.

"I'd do the rounds in campuses and take photos for the magazine, and while I was doing that, my friends who wanted to model asked if I could do their folios," he says. "I did folios for free. Then one of the modeling agencies called me back and asked if I could take photos for their other models."

Shooting women isn't all fun and games, as he later learned. "The experience is there—that's what you learn by working with other people. But I was shooting 20 models a day, and we're talking 16-hour days. And we had to wrap up in three days," he remembers.

Still, the perks of being a pro photographer were not far behind.

Marking his name

There are three things you need when you want to break into the big leagues: lots of talent, lots of patience and lots of luck.

JAY Tablante

Fortunately, Jason had all three.

Since he had no formal training, Jason took on an apprenticeship with photographer Emilio Esguerra for two years. In between, he'd read books and experiment with his many cameras ("I've had a D100, a D70, but I've disposed all my Nikon gear and switched to Canon, and I'm never going back!"). And then he'd also badger other photographers.

"I wanted to learn, so I'd ask a lot of photographers questions," he says.

His perseverance paid off. He now shares a studio with the uber-talented Erik Liongoren.

Jason worked on what every photographer has to master first: magazine shoots. But his work ethic and rapport with co-workers soon caught up with him. Word got out that Jason wasn't only very talented, but easy to work with as well. Soon, he was taking photos for the big guys like ABS-CBN, Unilever and Microsoft.

And then came the perks. "You get to travel a lot, and everything's paid for," he gushes. "And you meet a lot of people on the road. And sometimes the shoot wraps up in a day or two, so you still have a couple of days off to explore the place. Plus you get into parties because you know the people [because you once shot for them]."

Oddly enough, the downside to being a pro hasn't really bothered Jason. Being a freelancer, he doesn't have a fixed schedule, so oftentimes Sundays and holidays also translate to work days. "You're at the beck and call of your client. I respect no holiday," he says.

A typical day for Jason would be to go to a location shoot, attend a pre-production meeting, then go to another shoot. Oftentimes he finds himself complaining whenever he has several shoots lined up for the day, but this self-professed "binge workaholic" gets antsy after two days of not picking up a camera.

Which is probably why he was able to push through with his second exhibit last February. Held at the Crucible Gallery, Jason whipped up 18 prints that took a total of six months to finish. Each concept took two weeks to create, and he only found the time to work on them in between his other gigs.

He's currently trying to get gigs to shoot for companies outside Manila, and his third exhibit is being planned out.

Next up

I ask Jason what he thinks of the many amateur photographers who enter the business with fancy gear but no practice. "I believe there's a formula to it. It's 50-percent equipment and 50-percent eye. If you lack either one, you're lopsided."

Take it from someone who still believes film is superior to digital. Jason is convinced the only way he'll survive in this business is if he continues to feed his creativity.

"I watch more TV, and I get myself more exposed to all types of media. I get new inspiration there. I try to go out more."

After all, says Jason, "You're just as good as your last photoshoot."

Check out Jason's website at www.jaytablante.com

Sibling SUCCESS

DOUG flanked by Korean delegates at the HPAIR conference in Seoul

A STRONG advocate for the environment, Cathy poses with fellow global youth environmentalists at a conference in Strasbourg, Germany.

By Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

Douglas and Catherine Candano epitomize the Ateneo ideal of academic excellence and service toward fellowmen

ATENEO de Manila University has a long history of breeding fine talent.

The Candano siblings—22-year-old Douglas (major in Development Studies, minor in Creative Writing) and 24-year-old Catherine (double major in Economics-honors and Communications, double minor in Chinese Studies and Literature)—are the latest in the school's long list of illustrious students.

They are the latest recipients of the Loyola Schools Award for the Arts, with Doug receiving an award for Fiction and Cathy an award for Poetry.

2bU! sat down with the siblings and chatted with them about their parents, their years in Ateneo and their post-college plans.

So how do your parents feel? Double awards for both their children!

Cathy: Okay *naman... huwag na! Ang* sappy *naman niyan!* (Laughter)

Doug: They asked, '*Kailan yung awarding?*' Actually, *wala silang sinabi... siguro pinagmalaki (kami) sa ibang tao, pero ewan ko...*

How do you think these awards help promote the more artistic side of the school?

Doug: It gives recognition to the people who engage in the arts, so it's like it features a side of

SIBLING/ D3

DOUGLAS and Catherine Candano at the 2002 HPAIR Global Conference in Sydney

CATHY meeting the Iligan City mayor who flew in to join the National Conference on Sustainable Development that she organized with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Sibling success

From page D2

the Atenista that's not purely focused on the academics.

Cathy: Ateneo also has a very long tradition of artists. There are a lot of famous writers from Ateneo, and just the fact that the school is encouraging students and recognizing them is, I feel, their investment in building a community of artists. Writers like Gregorio Brilliantes, Benilda Santos, Emmanuel Torres, Bienvenido Lumbera—all these people from the '50s, '60s and '70s—would probably not be where they are today had it not been for their mentors in school or the opportunities given to them.

How have your Ateneo years helped you in your artistic formation?

Doug: I took other creative writing classes and I was also given the opportunity to participate in workshops like the National Writer's Workshop and the Ateneo Heights workshop. They have mentorship programs where you can set up appointments with your mentors and they'll go over your story and give you constructive criticism.

Cathy: Both of us have been in Heights (Ateneo's official literary publication) since freshman year, and when we were seniors, we both organized the local writers' workshop. We were both grateful because we both had the opportunity to experience the National Writer's Workshop and other workshops. It is very difficult to organize a workshop, but we felt that we had to do it since so much had been given to us, and we wanted to share it by doing things for the students as well.

How has being active in organizations like Heights and HPAIR (Harvard Project for Asia and International Relations) helped you grow?

Doug: [With HPAIR], I've been to different conferences in Sydney, Seoul and Shanghai, and while HPAIR is more on discourse, you get to meet people and talk about issues and it also opens you up to other cultures.

Cathy: It's really more sustainable development—meeting young people and getting their voices out. To me, the advocacy side is very important. We both organize workshops and outreach programs for public school kids that provide free art workshops. Young people in the Philippines don't always have the venue to interact with those in different fields because it's too costly to organize something for the youth, and these young people don't have the money to avail of these things. And when you get the opportunity to go to an HPAIR conference and you stay in five-star hotels, you meet presidents of different countries, people from Harvard, Yale, Oxford and from all over the world, you realize that you want to bring that home. The idea of giving back is something I feel very strongly about.

What are your post-college plans?

Doug: I used to work at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) where I was an electronic librarian. I had to look for 150 studies, annotate them and write eight articles. But since it was only for a few weeks, I'm going to look for another job and perhaps get an MA abroad.

Cathy: There are some environmental conferences I have to attend for my youth group, like I just came from Nairobi for the United Nations Youth Retreat for Youth Environmentalists. Who knows, maybe Doug and I may come up with a joint book someday.

Thanks to Ateneo for helping out. Don't worry, we'll use what you've given us and turn it into something you can hopefully be proud of.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

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Overachieving at a young age

Pacific
NGO
Forum
2004
On Beijing +1

ERIKA donning a national costume at the Asia-Pacific NGO Forum 2004 in Thailand

By Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

GANDHI once said, "The fragrance always remains on the hand that gives the rose." Twenty-year-old Erika Sales' hands may as well have been tainted with a kind of aromatic charm.

An incoming International Studies major specializing in Development Studies at Miriam College, Erika has done more than most girls her age.

In her sophomore year in March 2004, she founded the Babaing Aktibong Indibidwal (BAI), a tie-up with Women and Gender Institute, Miriam's specialized center on women's rights, gender equality and non-sexist learning.

BAI is an organization that promotes critical issues such as women's rights. It organizes simple events like song and poetry recitals. It has some 80 members.

As a human rights activist, Erika has also established a legal group for the Consortium for Women's Colleges. The group has produced a manual of students' rights.

The former junior council president is this year's incoming student council president.

"Before you must lead, you must learn what your constituents or the members of the community want—not what you want," she explains. "Leadership is learning and loving. Before you can lead, you must learn first."

Doing school proud

Outside, Erika has also done her school proud. She was a participant at the 7th Ayala Young Leaders Congress (AYLC), a special program of Ayala Corporation that brings together 72 of the country's top student leaders for a three-day opportunity to interact with peers and outstanding leaders of society.

One of Erika's most memorable experiences at AYLC was a creative presentation where they had to generate their own concepts of a leader using the tissue paper as an analogy.

"For example, when a person is crying, the tissue paper can be analogized to a leader who gives comfort," she said.

She also remembers how she stayed up with her peers until 3 or 4 a.m., crafting suggestions for their batch statement. She beams with pride as she recites their final creation, "*May napulot ako dito, balang araw, babalik ako at aking pupunan ang puwang na nalalaan para sa akin.*"

IN Thailand during her free time from the conference

They then proceeded to translate this into seven languages. The grand finale came when they took a large tarp, cut it into 72 pieces, and distributed them to the 72 participants. Each person came up with an action plan in relation to the statement and the shards of tarp were sent to the AYLC for implementation in the future.

Erika is also a member of the Unesco Youth Organization, and writes for the literary publication called Issues.

She volunteered as a Namfrel poll-watcher during the elections and has represented Miriam College in the Asia-Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing.

She had the opportunity of performing and dancing with folk singer Grace Nono onstage in a conference in Bangkok in 2004.

In an education conference in Nagoya, Japan, she talked about Philippine culture.

In her spare time, Erika dabbles in theater. "I love to act, direct and write plays!" she said. It's almost a wonder how she can actually still manage her time despite her multitude of activities.

"I don't believe in managing time," she explained, "It's managing yourself and your energy. The amount of hours doesn't matter. It's the amount of energy you put in your time. If you love what you do, it's not really work."

Miriam College senior Erika Sales is a rights activist and a drama lover

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

Working for a better Asia

By Leslie C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

The Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative (HYLI) will gather 24 delegates from Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Japan to discuss and debate ways to improve the region

ONE of Asia's most prestigious youth conferences is about to go underway, and the Philippines is ready with its bets.

A week-long event, the Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative (HYLI) will gather 24 delegates from Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Japan to discuss and debate ways to a better Asia.

Already on its seventh staging, the HYLI will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from July 11-15, to be led by no less than Dr. Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Indonesia's Minister of State for National Development Planning.

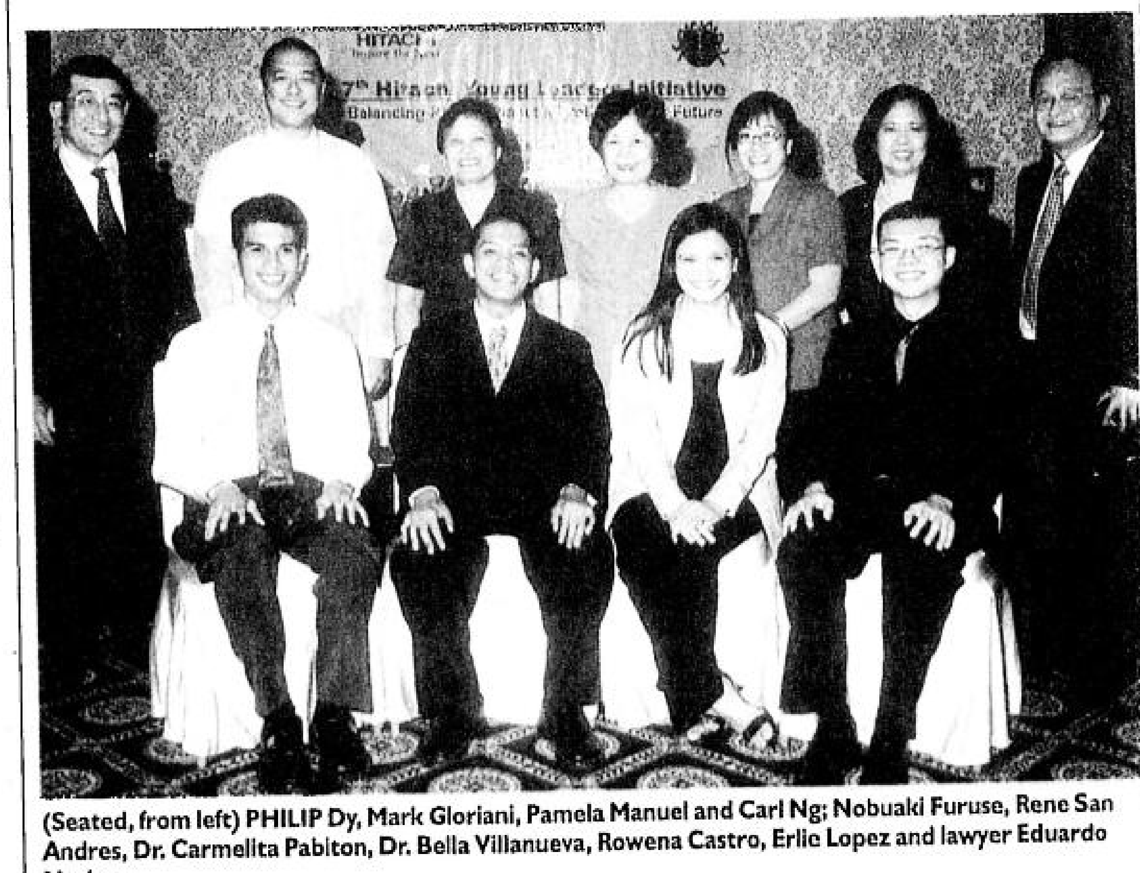
This year's theme is "Balancing People, Planet and Profit in Asia's Future," with sub-themes on economic integration, education, and environmental awareness.

Last April 27 at the Makati Shangri-La, the Philippine representatives were presented to the media. They are Philip Dy (AdMU), Mark Gloriani (DLSU), Pamela Manuel (UP), and Carl Ng (UP).

A quick study of their profiles indicates that this group can think and talk their way through issues. Their bios are heaped with awards in the fields of public speaking, debate, leadership, academics and journalism. Undoubtedly, they will make a very good representation of our country.

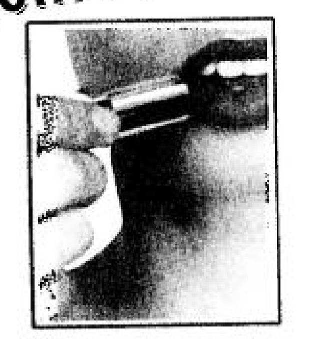
"The students selected for the HYLI are excellent representatives of their universities and country. They are in tune with current affairs, possess strong leadership qualities, and most importantly, have a vision for Asia in the future," said lawyer Antonio Eduardo Nachura, head of the selection panel and former member of Congress.

Clearly, this will be a golden opportunity for the delegates to have a taste of discussing regional issues while drawing from their experiences, views, and visions. We do hope a better Asia is not too far down the road.


HITACHI
7th Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative
Balancing
Future

(Seated, from left) PHILIP Dy, Mark Gloriani, Pamela Manuel and Carl Ng; Nobuaki Furuse, Rene San Andres, Dr. Carmelita Pabiton, Dr. Bella Villanueva, Rowena Castro, Erlie Lopez and lawyer Eduardo Nachura

Come & Visit



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DAY TWO - Friday, May 27, 2005
Morning Session:
Caring for Your Skin: A Lecture in Skin Care *by Celeteque*
Safe Ear Piercing *by Piercing Experts*
Afternoon Session:
Mix Your Own Aromatherapy Oils *by Eunice Inc.*
Carbo Tame Your Life & Breathe Thin *by Arsi Baltazar*
Life in a Can: *A Product Presentation by Oxylife Int'l*
Massage Therapy, Aromatherapy and Scar Removal *by Susie's Natural Body Essentials*
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Mesotherapy by Dr. Joel Mendez courtesy of *Creative Skin & Spa*
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DAY THREE - Saturday, May 28, 2005
Morning Session:
Cologne Concoction: Do It Yourself Scents *by Eunice Inc.*
Safe Ear Piercing *by Piercing Experts*
Eating Healthy the South Beach Way *by Chef Florabel Co*
Afternoon Session:
Formulating Foot Spa Products *by Eunice Inc.*
All of the Good, None of the Bad by Dr. Katherine Cruz *(Pharmanex/Nu Skin)*
Hydradermie: Beauty Treatments *by Guinot Institut Paris*
Mesotherapy by Dr. Joel Mendez courtesy of *Creative Skin & Spa*
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ERIKA (center) with Miriam College president Dr. Licuanan and other Japanese delegates at the ASEACCU 2004 conference in Japan

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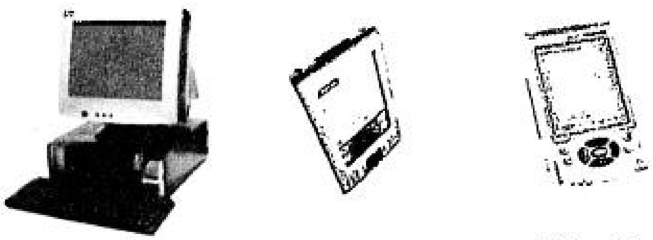

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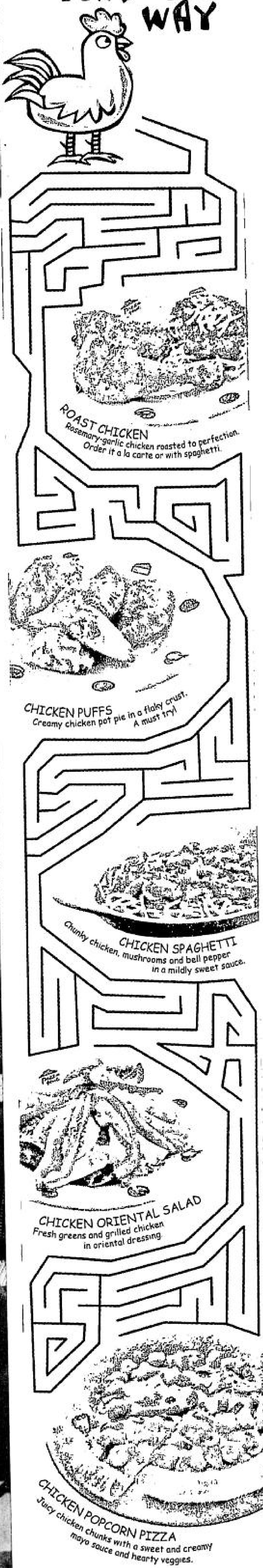
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children's hour
Every hour is time well spent.

happen, you and I

**Of bigger dreams,
higher hopes,
and promises easily
reached
- the Philippines -
Our very own.**

**A great sense of identity,
immense strength,
every man's fulfillment,
and the rightful home of the
Filipino child.**

Let's make it happen.

OUR mission of brighter smiles and bigger dreams for the Filipino child is made only possible by the many proponent organizations we assist in completing projects that target the four emerging issues on children.

All over the Philippines, we have provided funding assistance for 117 projects. Times, however, are changing, and as beings that aim to serve to our fullest capacity, we also must evolve accordingly. Mindanao has fast caught our attention as an area in need of rehabilitative assistance, an area we seek to prioritize. Through this do we look forward to the betterment of the whole country, our home, the home of our children.

Largely does this newfound endeavor depend on the various proposals sent our way, as reflected in our past projects. In recent years, we saw the successful progression of projects such as, the Baguio Center for Young Adults (BCYA), Munting Tahanan Home for the Streetchildren, and Bridge of Love Foundation Inc (Bolfi).

BCYA (Baguio City) addresses the ever-growing problem on Children In Conflict with the Law (CICL) by providing the affected children with adolescent reproductive health education, counseling, and assisting in the referral of cases geared towards facilitating positive behavioral change.

Munting Tahanan Home for the Streetchildren (Balanga City) gives wayward kids more than a place to go home to. They facilitate in the process of reintegration, rehabilitation, and healing from traumatic past experiences. Psychosocial rehabilitation is their main thrust, in that, they also offer educational support for both in-house and outreach individuals.

Bolfi (Davao del Sur) bridges the gap often created by poverty in its program that seeks to provide quality foundational education, which may serve as the impetus in building good moral character. This educational approach extends to the families of the children involved, helping decrease malnutrition rates by reinforcing awareness of the proper health and nutrition practices.

This year sees the beginnings of another of our partnerships with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as we enter into a project for the children of Philippine soldiers Killed In Action (KIA). The Educational Benefit for Dependents of KIA Personnel project aims to help educate forty (40) academically outstanding yet financially deprived orphans of soldiers in Mindanao.

Mentioned are but a handful of the projects we have supported. We seek for more challenging options that only make us stronger in our battle towards giving each and every child his right to live.

We believe a project's success is determined by the very first step taken. Now after reading this, are you willing to take that step?

DO YOU remember when...

You were only reprimanded and not ARRESTED?

Daddy came home from work every night?

'Toy' guns were only used for play?

...And you were touched but lovingly, devoid of any malicious intent, by the people you loved...

We remember. And now, at Children's Hour, it is our dream, our commitment, our personal undertaking to remind the child of today just how it was - just how being a kid OUGHT TO BE.

Let us introduce ourselves

Children's Hour Philippines Inc is an organization that calls on individuals, companies and their respective employees, to donate at least an hour of their annual earnings, equivalent to .05 percent (annually) and .7 percent (monthly), in support of programs committed to the betterment of the Filipino child's life.

We can work together

Properly constituted, SEC registered NGOs with a year's minimum of sustained operations are encouraged to direct proposals to our Project Selection Committee.

Focus on what's important

We focus on projects that center on the 4 Emerging Issues on Children (0 to 17 years of age):
- Children in conflict with the law
- Children of migrant workers
- Involvement in armed conflicts
- Commercial sexual exploitation

Our assistance is through the allocation of funding towards the following areas:
- Early Childhood Care and Development
- Formal/Non-Formal Education
- Foster Care
- Health and Nutrition
- Home Reintegration Assistance
- Pediatric Equipment (donation of)
- Psycho-Social Rehabilitation
- Special Education

Understandably, our funding is not all encompassing. Assistance does not cover the following areas of operation:
- Administrative costs (i.e. management and administrative salaries)
- Equipment purchases, with the exception of Pediatric Equipment intended for disabled children
- Utilities and office rental
- Infrastructure development

Yes, it can be done!

A proposal is chosen when proven within perspective of the following points of consideration:
- For children in need of special protection, aged 0-17 years old
- Clearly documented in its approach to the 4 emerging issues on children
- Promotes, as well as, protects children rights
- Innovative and pioneering in strategy
- Able to provide significant manifestations of positive progress in the child's physical condition, attitude, behavior, and knowledge using valid methods of measure
- Sustainable and replicable
- Proponent organization is visibly competent and efficient

Now that all is settled...

Upon approval, Children's Hour Project Monitoring is conducted to ensure that we extend help the best way possible:
- On-site visits and corresponding evaluation by the Project Selection Committee, the Secretariat, and representative/s of the Board of Trustees
- Submission of reports detailing:
  a) Financials
  b) Progress
  c) Project Completion

Let's begin, make a difference

Project proposals may be coursed through the Children's Hour Secretariat or our official website:

**The Secretariat:
10/F BPI Main Building, 6768 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Philippines 1200
Telephone Number: (63 2) 894.1663
Website: www.childrenshour.org.ph
Email: ask@childrenshour.org.ph**

'Panaghoy ng mga Bata' lines up more projects

"PANAGHOY ng mga Bata", a fund raising project for the young victims of the recent food-poisoning tragedy in the province, has become a continuing project for Bohol's underserved children, dealing in the areas of psycho-social trauma-healing, nutrition, sanitation, health, education, and values formation.

Cesar Montano, who won Best Actor and Best Director accolades for his film "Panaghoy Sa Sugba", expressed support for the project.

Panaghoy means "calling", "lamentation". This time it is a call to focus on the needs of children in Bohol.

He said, "We are asking agencies and institutions to volunteer the services of counselors who can help the families and other survivors cope with the tragedy."

The Children's Hour will work closely with "Panaghoy ng mga Bata" for more projects that will help the children of Bohol.

Donations can still be deposited at any Bank of the Philippine Islands branch under the account name: Children's Hour Philippines Inc FAO "Panaghoy ng mga Bata", with account number BPI-CA-2591-0024-84

children's hour
Every hour is time well spent.

As one of our staunchest supporters, the Management Association of the Philippines is right smack in the heart of Children's Hour...

MAP has a New Home

The Management Association of the Philippines has moved to its new office at:

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**The following contact details remain the same:
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Today is marked with joy for the following fourteen projects as Children's Hour awards them with grants to further help their many causes:

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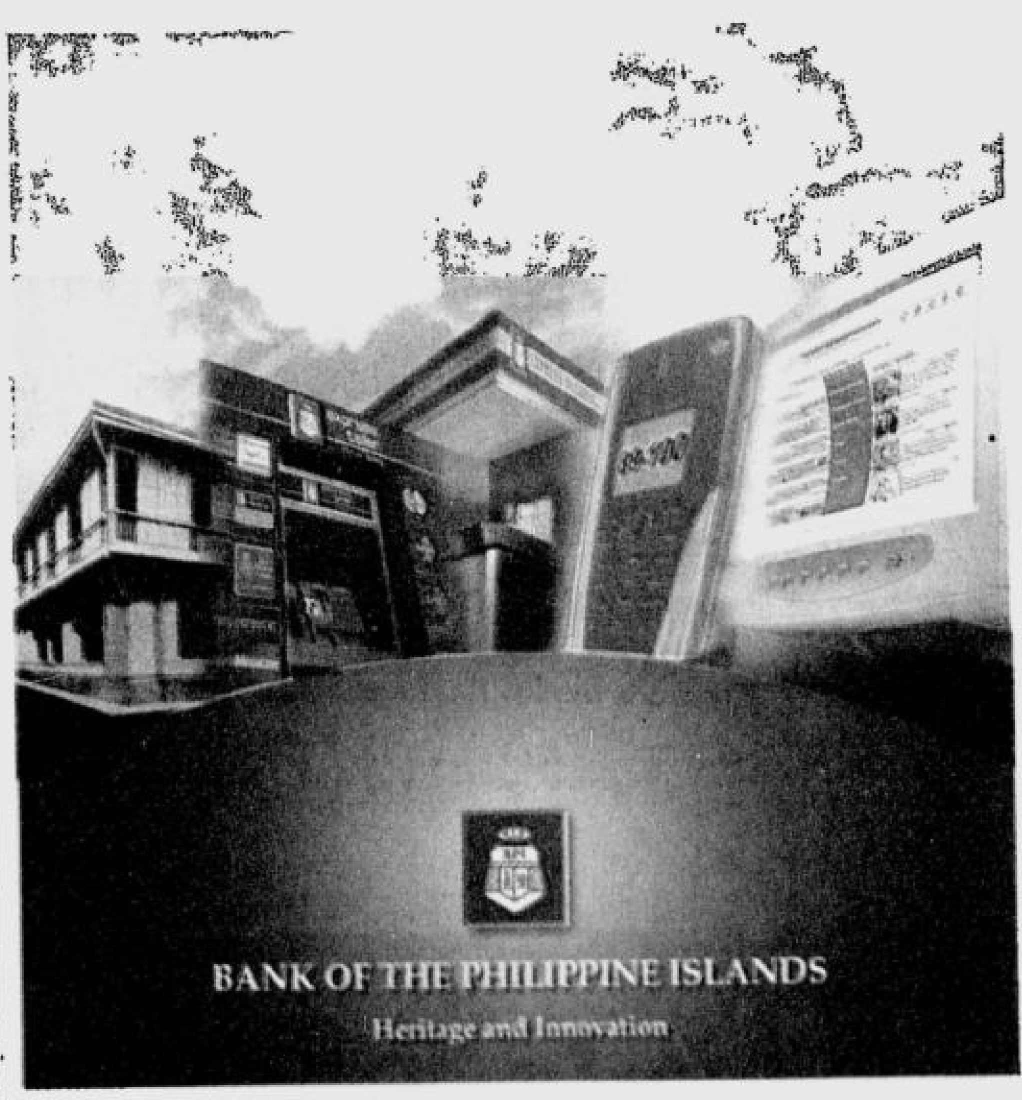
Create Responsive Infants by Sharing (CRIBS) Phil. Inc.
Developmental Advocacy of Women Volunteerism Foundation, Inc.
Defending Family Values Foundation, Inc. (DFVI)
Pangarap Foundation
Parenting Foundation of the Philippines, Inc.
Tuloy Foundation

LUZON
Bahay-Lingkod Community Center
Munting Tahanan Home for the Street Children

VISAYAS
People Who Care Foundation, Inc.
West Visayas State University Medical Center - Dept. of Pediatrics

MINDANAO
Bridge of Love Foundation, Inc. (BOLFI)
Philippine Agency for Community and Family Mindanao Chapter, Inc.


BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
Heritage and Innovation

From a project in 1999, we find ourselves surrounded with more than we ever dared ask for, far greater than imagined, a coming together, united in our ideals.

children's hour

Every hour is time well spent.

As we hold the Children's Hour Turnover of donations today, May 25, 2005 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila, concurrently with the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) monthly meeting, we take the time to acknowledge the very pulse of our operations.

Our dreams are only lived out,
the dreams of our children fulfilled,
because of YOU.

Because you believe that we can still make a difference.

Our hearts swell with gratitude.

ELSA: EMPOWERING THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN MINDANAO

The Education and Livelihood Skills Alliance (Elsa) is a multi-sectoral public-private partnership that seeks to create and expand school and community-based learning and employment program for the young people from Mindanao, giving much importance to ARMM and other conflict-affected areas. The alliance was founded by the International Youth Foundation, Ayala Foundation, Consuelo Foundation, Petron Foundation, Philippine Business for Social Progress and SEAMEO INNOTECH.

The Elsa is under USAID's Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) project whose goals are to increase community-based learning opportunities in conflict-affected areas and communities without schools; improve teaching capacity in Math, Science and English; promote reintegration of out-of-school youth into a productive economy; and reform educational policies.

With the help of global, national and local partners, Elsa will build education infrastructures and develop alternative learning systems for the out-of-school youth, and implement the text2teach project that will benefit 120 schools in Mindanao. The Elsa will also implement a youth engagement program, both for out-of-school and in-school youth, which will help the Mindanao youth understand the diversity of their country and its people's culture and religion.

In the Philippines, the numbers run high.

Over 4 million children are victims of child labor, half of which is exposed to hazardous working conditions. Approximately 100,000 are abused every year. 300,000 aimlessly roam the streets, exhibiting signs of malnutrition. 3 out of 10 drop out even before stepping into secondary school. And 1 out of 5 is afflicted with some form of disability. This is the harsh reality imposed upon us but there is HOPE. With your help, we can achieve it -give these children lives worth living/ a chance at life.

An hour of your time is all it takes.

Our fight against the oppression of children lies in the alarming effects of these four emerging issues on children:

1. Children Involved in Armed Conflict

- Recent times have seen an increased rate of participation in armed conflict. Children are no longer 'victimized' by such conflicts; they have become active participants, engaging in propagation, strategic planning, and actual combat. The Department of Social Welfare and Development plots that for the period of January to December 2003, victims of disputes have reached 208, of which 156 are affected and the 52, involved themselves. Based on the figures, there are no gender biases as an equal number, 26, of those involved, is reflected.

- Source: Elizabeth Protacio-De Castro, Ph.D. Children in Armed Conflict Situations: Focus on Child Soldiers in the Philippines. Featured Paper for January 2003 www.childprotection.org.ph

2. Children in Conflict with the Law

- Juvenile delinquency is a growing concern as the age of criminal offenders has become lower. The average age these children get caught is an alarming 14.4 years old, involving a larger number of boys than girls. However surprising that piece of information is, there is hardly any speculation why poverty is the most pervasive cause - often dubbed as 'survival offending', criminality has become a way to fend off hunger and thirst. The children placed in DWSD-run centers often remain under indeterminate sentences until the age of 21. Most of the children placed in jails are rarely visited, resulting in gang formation and self-mutilation, as these young souls ward of loneliness.

- Source: BREAKING RULES: Children in Conflict with the Law and the Juvenile Justice; (Process: The Experience in the Philippines 2004); (Published by: Save the Children UK - Philippine Program)

3. Children of Migrant Workers

- The dollars do come in but the country's growing populace of migrant workers pays an equally high price. Each year, more than 800,000 of our countrymen leave the country in pursuit of better lives for their families, heading to Asia and the Middle East. Bonds are often broken, and an incessant longing for parental affection and authority ensues. Studies show these children enjoying the material benefits received for a short period of time, and later on, developing behavioral problems associated with having been separated. A lack of support and guidance often lead to dysfunctional communication between parent and child, disruptive behavior, and early onset of pregnancy.

- Source: Moran, Kathy. Children of Migrant Workers Feel Lost at Home. Inter Press Service - 15 March 2002.

4. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

- 2003 statistics report over 4,000 children to have been sexually abused. But it does not end there. 51 are victims of Pedophilia, 247 are prostituted, and 13 are involved in pornography. These children often turn to exploitative activities due to financial instability, a lack of the education necessary in landing a job, and the desire to prove oneself in a newfound lifestyle. More often than not, they succumb to providing their service to customers, some being regular ones, and even taking them in as lovers.

- Source: The World of the Children Involved in the Sex Industry: Reducing the Risks and Harm of Sexual Exploitation, STD and HIV/AIDS in Filipino Children. (Featured Paper July 2001; www.childprotection.org.ph)

CHILDREN'S HOUR PHILIPPINES, INC.
Approved Projects for the 2003 Campaign

Organization

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
Camilian Sisters
Catholic Ministry to Deaf People, Inc.
Create Responsive Infants by Sharing (CRIBS) Philippines, Inc.
Developmental Advocacy of Women Volunteerism Foundation, Inc.
Defending Family Values Foundation, Inc.(DFVI)
Development Center for Handicapped Foundation, Inc. -
Stepping Stone Learning, Resource and Therapy Center
Lingkuran sa Ikauunlad na Ganap ng Pamilya (LINGaP) Foundation, Inc.
Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc.
Make-A-Wish Foundation Philippines
Pangarap Foundation, Inc.
Parenting Foundation of the Philippines, Inc.
Tahanan Outreach Projects & Services, Inc. (TOPS)
Tuloy Foundation, Inc.

LUZON
Alliance of Bible Christian
Communities of the Philippines, Inc. (ABCCOP)
Baguio Center for Young Adults, Inc. (BCYA)
Baguio General Hospital
Bahay-Lingkod Community Center
Endeavors for Social Development Foundation, Inc.
Munting Tahanan Home for the Street Children
Northern Luzon Association for the Blind (NLAB)

VISAYAS
Free Rehabilitation, Economic, Education and Legal Assistance Volunteers Program, Inc. FREELAVA,INC.
People Who Care Foundation, Inc.
West Visayas State University Medical Center - Department of Pediatrics

MINDANAO
ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.
Bridge of Love Foundation, Inc. (BOLFI)
Davao Medical Center
Minsupala Economic Development Foundation, Inc.
Philippine Agency for Community and Family Mindanao Chapter, Inc.
Sibugay Provincial Hospital
Sulu Provincial Hospital

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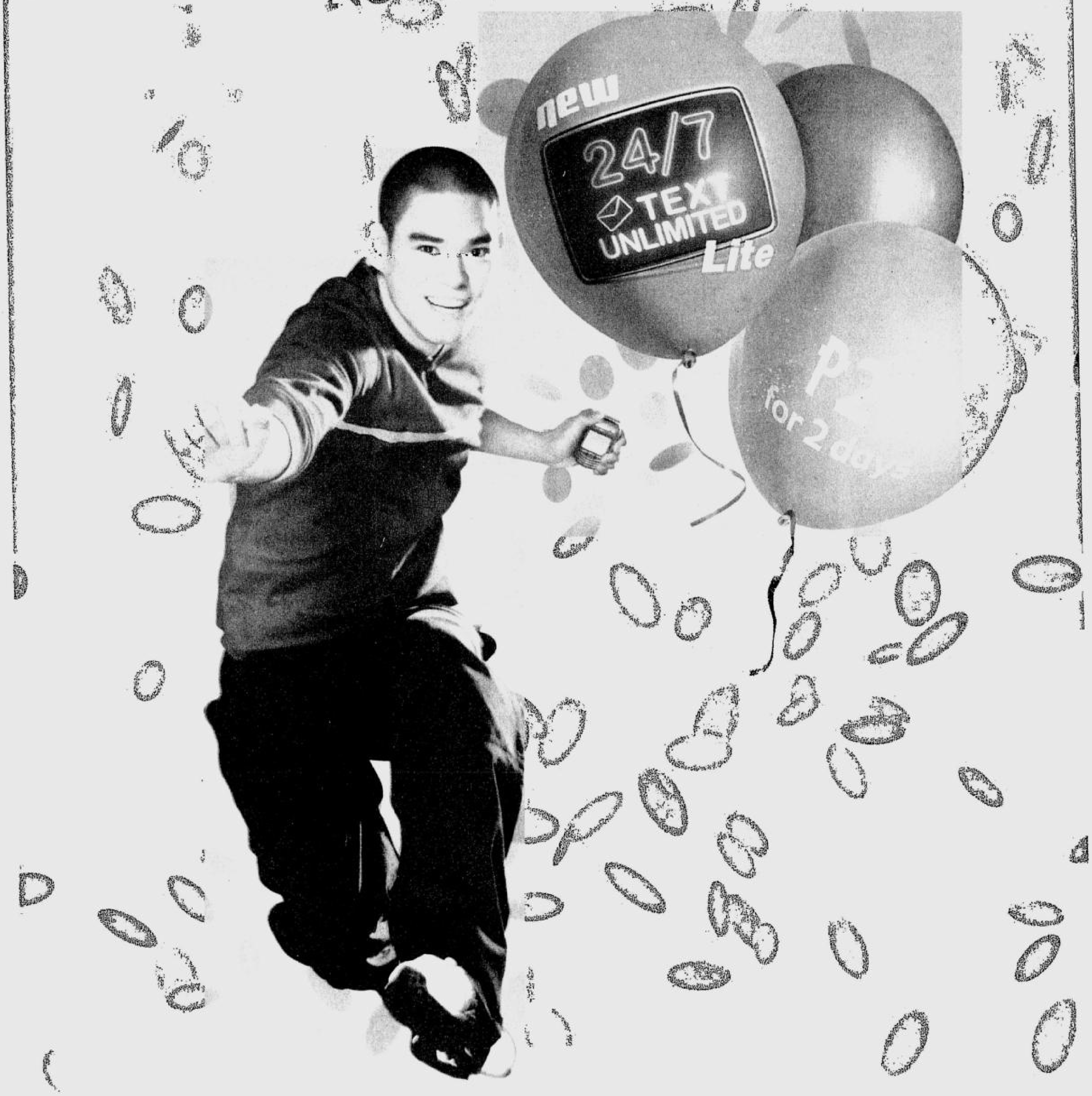

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- After texting the keywords to 247, you will receive a text message containing the number series ***220#** followed by a 14-digit number string. Once you receive this, just load up by doing the following:
  - Key in ***220#** followed by the 14-digit number string then the **#** sign. Ensure that there are no spaces between characters then press SEND.

    OR
  - Dial **220**, press **1** then enter the 14-digit number string.

  Note: For security purposes, It is best to load up immediately after you receive the 14-digit number string.
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Meet the rock stars of science

CRISTINA MARIE Costantini from the University School of Milwaukee explains the results of her experiment on peer pressure.

The delegates to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair are rocking the world—in their own scientific way

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

PHOENIX, Arizona—They had traveled a long way, many of them crossing oceans and continents. School kids flocked around them holding up pens and papers, asking for their autographs. Cameras flashed endlessly as they faced one interview after another while others were asked to hold microphones and say something memorable to the TV cameras.

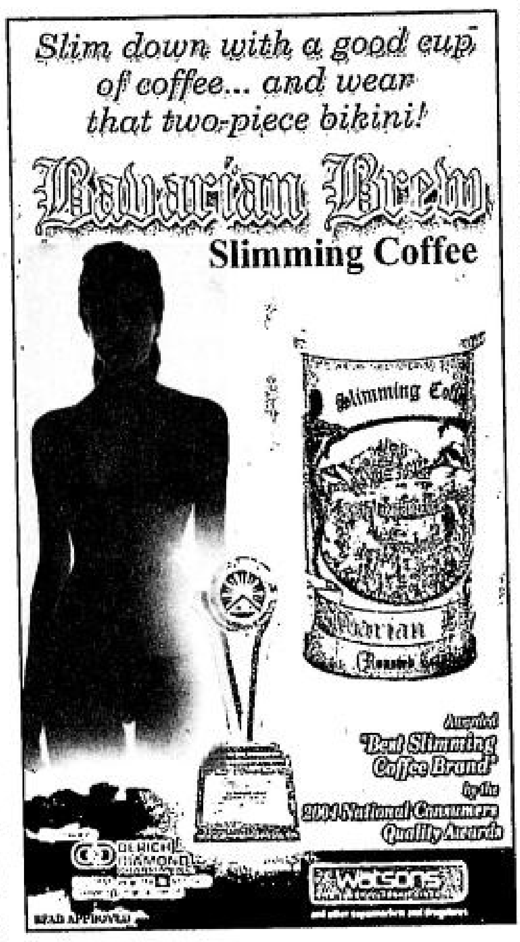
They were not backstage at a rock concert. They were at the Phoenix Civic Center. And although some of them looked the part, they were not rock stars nor Britney replacements. They were the delegates to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2005, the world's largest pre-college science fair which was founded by Science Service in 1950.

Some entries

There were Danielle Marie Strausbaugh and Jessica Reile from Upper Sandusky High School in Ohio, USA. They could tell you "Who has better coordination: musicians or athletes?"

Pen-Yuan Hsing and Wei-Kang Huang from Taipei, Taiwan, did a study on "Enhanced Cooling of Microelectric Devices by Using the Thermoacoustic Effect." Jose David Lopez and Mayra Martinez from Andrews High School in Texas, USA, would explain to you why a good night's sleep

MEET/ E2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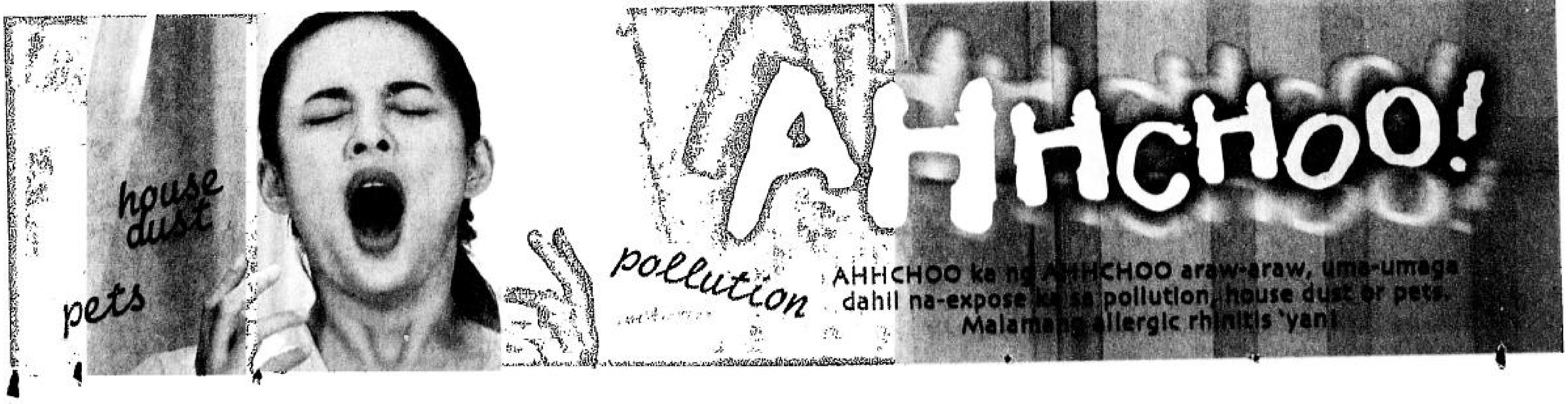

house dust
pets
pollution
AHHCHOO!
AHHCHOO ka ng AHHCHOO araw-araw, uma-umaga dahil na-expose ka sa pollution, house dust or pets. Malamang allergic rhinitis 'yan!

PAIGE Nicole Paxton of The Villages High School in Florida, USA, experimented on whether we should believe our memories.

CHRISTINA Marie Amoroso from Lawrence High School in New York studied autism's effects on a sibling's relationships and well-being.

CATALINA Sanchez Navarro from Guanajuato, Mexico, created a prototype which could help the blind operate a computer auto-sufficiently.

ROANA Reyes from Philippine Science High School presented her team's study on Testing Fruit Juices Containing Proantocyanidin for Inhibition of Biofilm Formation Activity.

Meet the rock stars of science

From page E1

was essential—they worked on a study called "Time To Get Up: Does Sleep Deprivation Affect The Frontal Lobe of the Brain?"

Catalina Sanchez Navarro from Guanajuato, Mexico created a hardware and software called Darshan, which the blind could use to operate a computer auto-sufficiently.

Maria Jimena Marquez Palacios and Karla Alexandra Monier Bautista from Lima, Peru, explored "The Use of Essential Oils of Camu Camu and Eucalyptus; and the Coloring of Achiote in Elaboration of Natural Products and their Contribution to Asthmatic Problems."

Cristina Marie Costantini from the University School of Milwaukee measured the degree of susceptibility of individuals to "The Peer Pressure Effect." Christina Marie Amoroso from Lawrence High School in New York studied the "Relationship Effects of Having a Sibling With Autism."

Zuzana Tvaruzkova from Kromeriz, Czech Republic, could expound on "New Challenges to Fight Against Fungal Diseases of Plants." Ocan Sankur from Istanbul, Turkey came up with "A New Multidimensional Feature-Mapping Algorithm."

Let Daniel Mazor and Harel Victor Cohen from Emeq Hefer, Israel show you "A Pressure Suit for the Handicapped." Martin Nicolas Bricchi and Leandro Gabriel Martinez from Buenos Aires, Argentina, could also show you the wonders of their "Convertible Wheel Chair."

Brilliant minds

And, believe it or not, these brilliant young minds were all still in high school. They were just a few examples from 1,447 finalists from 45 countries who competed for more than $3 million in scholarships and prizes at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair recently.

Fifty-three percent of this year's finalists were male; 47 percent were female. All of them fall between the ages of 13 to 20. These finalists, who were selected from millions of science fair participants from all over the world, had to compete with 65,000 students at over 550 regional Intel ISEF-affiliated science fairs around the globe to earn the right to join the 2005 Intel ISEF.

These brilliant young minds battled it out in 14 scientific categories: Behavioral and Social Sciences, Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Science, Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Mathematics, Medicine and Health, Microbiology, Physics, Space Science, Zoology. About one-third of the projects are entered in two categories: Engineering and Environmental Sciences.

Over a thousand booths were set up at the expansive Phoenix Civic Center to showcase the works of students from all over the world. For days, people wandered in and out of the center, milling from one booth to another, talking to the students about their projects.

Good work

"This is basically recognition for good work," said Yvonne Garcia-Flores, Intel Philippines' Education manager.

Apart from the chance to have their work recognized, Intel ISEF also provides the opportunity for young science lovers to interact with accomplished practitioners in their fields of interest, thanks to the presence of more than 1,000 experts who volunteered to judge their projects. Intel ISEF judges all have a Ph.D. or its equivalent in one of the 14 scientific disciplines, or at least six years of related professional experience.

KAYO Johnson, John Johnson and Earth Robinson from Mississippi,USA, explored age-old gender differences when it comes to relationships.

PHOTOS TAKEN WITH A CANON IXUS I5

Do NOT Feed the Scientists!!!

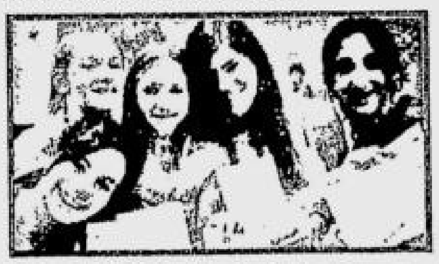
THEY'RE SMART—and funny

ANDREW Guardamano, a Filipino from Archbishop MacDonald, Old Scona Academic High School, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada,and his groupmate Julia Grochowski, show off the pins they have collected from this year's ISEF delegates. Their study on Lobitonin in Cancer Treatment Phase II was given a second award in the team project category.

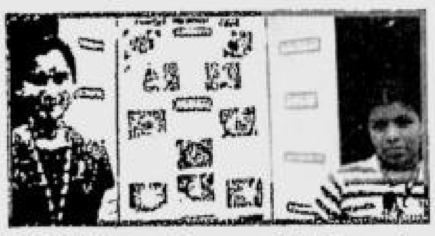
ALIX Beth Stelly from Catholic High School, New Iberia, Louisiana, studied the medicinal value of the comfrey root. The pins on her lanyard were given to her by other delegates in exchange for the adorable mini-Tabasco pins she was giving out at ISEF.

Anne Cruzado from Manila Science High School signs autographs after talking to the kids about her group's project—a device that can generate sound waves to attract fish.

ISEF's very own Ron Weasley. Two more delegates from New York



SCIENCE FANS. Students from Arizona schools spend the day at ISEF, learning about the projects and getting autographs from the delegates.



MARIA Jimena Marquez Palacios and Karla Alexandra Monier Bautista from San Antonio de Padua, Lima-Lima, Peru, explore the use of natural candies against asthmatic problems.

This year's Filipino delegates (see sidebar), who were chosen in a nationwide competition with the help of the Department of Education and the Department of Science and Technology, agreed that the judges at Intel ISEF could actually be nicer than their local counterparts, providing support and encouragement and being generous with praise.

The finalists were judged on important points, including creative ability, scientific thought, thoroughness and clarity.

The winners of this year's Intel Foundation Young Scientist Award were Ameen Abdulrasool from Lane Technical High School in Chicago, Illinois, who did a study on "Prototype for Autonomy: Pathway for the Blind"; Stephen Schulz from Gesamtschule Buer-Mitte, Gelsenkirchen, Nordrhein-Westfahlen, Germany for his work on "From Synthesis to Analysis of Radical Inhibitors"; and Gabrielle Alyce Gianelli from Lake Highland Preparatory School in Orlando, Florida, who studied "Fractal Dimension Analysis of Putative Martian Coastlines."

Considered the top students at the Intel ISEF, each of the three students received a $50,000 scholarship.

Numerous other awards were given out. Three students were given the Seaborg Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar Award and will receive the chance to go on an all-expense paid trip to the SIYSS during the Nobel Prize Ceremonies in December.

The two top-scoring teams would be sent to the European Union Contest for Young Scientists in Moscow or the MILSET—Expo-Sciences International in Santiago, Chile.

PINOY PRIDE. Joey Dacula Mangadlao, recipient of a Third Award in Microbiology, and Daisy Bayani Galapia, recipient of a Fourth Award in Botany, with Intel Phils. Education Manager Yvonne Garcia-Flores

A panel of Intel judges selected winners of the Intel Foundation Achievement Awards for outstanding work in any field. Recipients of this award were given $5,000 each. In each category, a Best-of category winner was selected to take home a $5,000 award and an Intel Centrino mobile technology-based notebook computer.

A $1,000 grant was also given to the winner's school and the Intel ISEF affiliated fair they represented. Grand awards were given in each of the 14 categories and the team category in first ($3,000), second ($1,500), third ($1,000) and fourth places ($500). Aside from these, Intel also gave out special awards, scholarships and government awards.

Filipino awardees

The Philippine delegation brought home two grand awards—a Fourth Award in Botany for the work of Daisy Bayani Galapia, a 16-year-old from Sinait National High School, Ilocos Sur on "Pandakaki as Rice Bug Eradicator," and a Third Award in Microbiology for the study of Joey Dacula Mangadlao, also a 16-year-old from Agusan del Sur National High School on "Biologically Potent Broad Spectrum Antibiotics Obtained from Tetrodotoxin-Rich Organs of Puffer Fishes."

Both Daisy and Joey intend to save their cash prize for the future. Joey, already a science competition veteran (eight contests and seven awards in the past), said his Intel ISEF experience gave him added confidence.

Daisy, who was considering a career in tourism before she won, has decided she wants to re-focus on taking up Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. "Happy *kami kasi na i*-represent *ang* Philippines," she said with a smile.

The Intel ISEF wasn't all serious work. The delegates had the chance to make new friends from around the world with various fun and relaxing activities that Intel had prepared for them. The fair was rich in tradition as well, with delegates exchanging pins and souvenirs from different countries.

The fair was a memorable event not just for the delegates but for the spectators as well.

Barbara Carman, manager for Intel Science Competitions, spoke about the projects that she considered unforgettable because the students were so involved. "The ones where the students have a personal involvement. Projects on assisting people with disabilities or searching for cures of diseases that affect people they know."

But what happens after ISEF? While 19 percent have obtained or are in the process of obtaining a patent on their projects, not all students intend to pursue their projects further. Some will enjoy their prizes, some will move on and start new lives as college freshmen, and others will compete again next year.

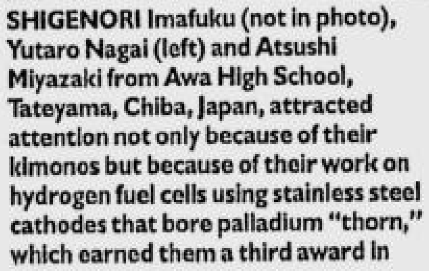
In the meantime, the rest of the world waits in anticipation for the next batch of young scientists who will undoubtedly dazzle us again with their brilliance.

Watch out, Indianapolis, Indianal Next year, new rock stars of science will be invading your town.

For the complete list of winners, visit www.sciserv.org/isef.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

WHIZ KIDS. The Filipino finalists of Intel ISEF 2005



SHIGENORI Imafuku (not in photo), Yutaro Nagai (left) and Atsushi Miyazaki from Awa High School, Tateyama, Chiba, Japan, attracted attention not only because of their kimonos but because of their work on hydrogen fuel cells using stainless steel cathodes that bore palladium "thorn," which earned them a third award in the team project category.

Ten young Pinoy scientists to watch out for

By Pam Pastor

TWO out of these 10 young Filipinos received awards at Intel's International Science and Engineering Fair in Arizona. But we think they're all winners.

JOEY DACULA MANGADLAO

Agusan del Sur National High School

Project: Biologically Potent Broad Spectrum Antibiotics Obtained from Tetrodotoxin-Rich Organs of Puffer Fishes

Prize: Third, Microbiology

Mangadlao decided on his project after reading reports from the World Health Organization on how some microorganisms are resistant to antibiotics. He focused on the puffer fish. Though considered trash by fishermen because they are poisonous, puffer fish produce tetrodotoxin, which is currently being explored as a pain killer.

After studying extracts from the liver, gonads, intestines and skin of three different puffer fish species, Mangadlao concluded that the antibacterial and antifungal properties of the extracts were significantly comparable to commercially available antibiotics and could be an alternative means of managing infections.

DAISY BAYANI GALAPIA

Sinait National High School in Ilocos Sur

Project: Pandakaki (Tabernaemontana Pandacaqui Poir) as Rice Bug (Leptocorisa Acuta) Eradicator

Prize: Fourth, Botany

"It's the International Year of Rice," Galapia said when asked to explain why she chose her project. "I really want to promote rice production."

She set out to test the effectivity of *pandakaki*, a flowering shrub, in eradicating rice bugs, the pests that wreak havoc on farms. After five months of study, Galapia concluded that not only was pure *pandakaki* extract as effective as commercial pesticide in eradicating rice bugs, it was also cheaper and more environment-friendly than chemical pesticides.

BRIAN JAMES SIABABA AGGANGAN

University of the Philippines Rural High School in Laguna

Project: Copper Tolerance of Non-mycorrhizal and Mycorrhizal Eucalyptus and Acacia Seedlings

To help promote reforestation in old copper mining sites, Aggangan tested non-*mycorrhizal* and *mycorrhizal* eucalyptus (*mychorriza* refers to a symbiotic relationship between some fungus and the root system of a tree) and acacia seedlings to test their tolerance for the metallic element.

After five and a half months of experiments, he found that the acacia species *A. aulacocarpa* could be suitable for reforesting abandoned mines when treated with copper-tolerant *ectomycorrhizal* fungi, particularly the *pisolithus* species.

ELLAINE JANDOC CABASAN, MA. ANNA ANGELICA SALMORIN CRUZADO, MARA JOAN ANTONIO ROQUERO

Manila Science High School

Project: Sine-generating device that can be used to catch more fish with less time and effort

Cabasan, Cruzado and Roquero were concerned at the destruction certain fishing methods—cyanide, dynamite, *muro-ami* (a form of net harvesting) and others—caused the environment. The girls aimed to introduce a new fishing method that was both effective and environment-friendly. They constructed, tested and debugged a device that could generate sine waves with different sound frequencies to attract fish. Testing frequencies from 200 to 2000 Hz, they found that frequencies of 1000-1500 Hz attracted the most fish.

MICHAEL TORRES PEREZ, ARLOU J. ANGELES, ROANA C. REYES

Philippine Science High School

Project: Testing Fruit Juices Containing *Proanthocyanidin* for Inhibition of Biofilm Formation Activity

Biofilms, layers of microorganisms that attach to surfaces and cause serious health problems like urinary tract infection and bloody diarrhea that can lead to fatal dehydration, cannot be treated by existing antibiotics.

Perez, Angeles and Reyes tested the effectiveness of natural fruit juices in preventing the formation of biofilms.

After six months of studies, they concluded that apple, tomato and pear juices were effective in inhibiting or preventing biofilm formation of *E. coli* and *S. aureus*, making these juices potential treatments for health problems associated with these biofilms.

MOHAMMAD AL-MAHDI TAN KHO

Arturo Eustaquio Memorial Science High School in Zamboanga

Project: Bisorption of Zinc in Contaminated Soil from Zambales Base Metal Mine Zamboanga City by Phosphatized Bat Guano

Kho saw in his own town that the end of mining operations could leave behind lead and zinc-contaminated soil. Exposure to zinc can cause health problems.

For about four months, he studied how bat guano or droppings could be an effective and economical method of removing zinc from contaminated soil through absorption. He concluded that biosorption of zinc was greater the longer the phosphatized bat guano were left on the site.

Win 'American Idol' goodies!

LAST week we said goodbye to Vonzell.

Two are left. Who's it going to be? Carrie or Bo? Bo or Carrie?

To add even more fun to this season's American Idols, 2bU! and Star World have been giving away exclusive "American Idol" premium items.

E-mail your answers to the following questions to americanidol_on_starworld @yahoo.com. The first five people who will send correct answers will win "American Idol" goodies.

Week of May 23, 2005

1. Nikko's father played what professional sport?
2. Which American idol appears as a singer in the latest film remarks of Pride and Prejudice?
3. What are the names of the final American Idol vying for the grand prize?
4. How many singers from Hawaii have made the finals?
5. What was the title of Kelly Clarkson's first single?

Catch "American Idol" on Star World every Wednesday at 4 p.m., 8 p.m., 11:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 11 a.m., 4 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.; and Fridays at 2:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Winners for Week of May 16:

1. Arriane James Javate
2. Edward8 Santiago
3. Andrea Tecson
4. Gay Camille Sison
5. Dorothy Joy Bulan

Winners will be notified on how they can claim their prize.

THE FINAL TWO

Healing our achy breaky skin

From page E4

not peeling from the neck up.

I have, however, committed some sun sins that have taken its toll on my complexion.

The mix of heat and UV rays have caused some minor breakouts on some parts of my face, and since I'd rather fix the problem than cake on concealer, I've been searching for a quick remedy for my post-sun zits.

I've discovered a tough cleansing product in Clearasil Cream Cleanser. The salicylic acid in the formula doesn't leave skin parched, yet has just enough medication to dissolve dirt and oil that can cause more blemishes.

For my skin-smoothing moisturizer, I use Avon Anew Pure O2 Oxygenating Cream with SPF 15 during the day—it still tops my list of the "cleanest" face creams ever—and Neutrogena Pore Refining Essence at night. The latter doesn't just smoothen out rough spots, but makes skin appear more luminous with regular use.

My cherie amour

Why not punch up your usual lippie with Lancome Juicy Cherie, the latest addition to the cult fave, Juicy Tubes? Available in six glam, shimmery shades, the new formula is bolder, prettier and more high-impact than ever! Try it in Red Sweetheart, a sweet cherry with gold flecks.

Visit the Lancome counters this month and score a Candy Reyes (of ISHQ)-designed floral tote in either wild pink or subtle beige, just in time for your last summer hurrah. This limited-edition accessory sells for P550 with a minimum purchase of P2500.

Neutrogena, L'oreal, Clearasil and Silka at PCX and other health and beauty stores; Phytomer at Rustan's and My Beauty Hub at 6750 Ayala Avenue Makati; Avon at select department stores and authorized Avon dealers; Lancome and Shu Uemura at Rustan's Tower and Rustan's Makati.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com

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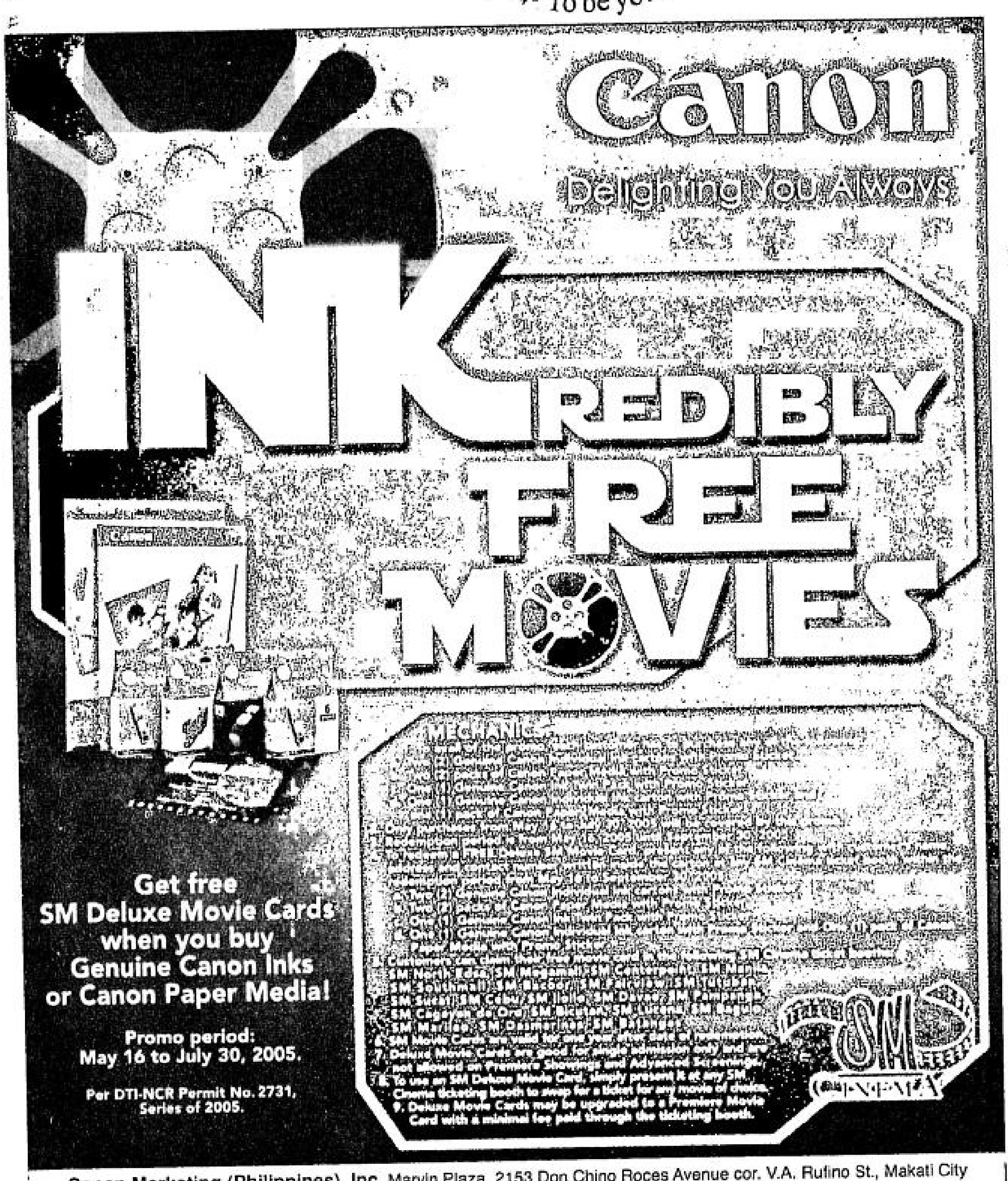
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Healing our achy breaky skin

Lora Gabol

AT THE MOMENT, I'm rotating only half of my wardrobe—the covered-up, *manang* half.

Due to much excitement over the many out-of-town and under-the-sun trips I've gone on in the past month, I have unwittingly exposed my skin to an amount of sun not even an SPF 70 could handle. Thus, the icky peeling stage that only allows me to wear clothing big enough to cover my Dalmatian-spotted shoulders and back.

The tank tops and halters hanging in my closet kicked me onto a quest for smoother skin. I realized how most of us take our velvety shoulders for granted. They seem like a distant memory in this un-bare-able state! What's a girl to do? Get to work.

Most of us take our velvety shoulders for granted, until sunburn kicks in and we end up with Dalmatian-spotted skin

No scrubs

Raw, post-sun skin can only take so much exfoliating. Let me watch you use your regular exfoliant on an angry red sunburn!

So ditch the grainy shower and body scrubs for now. You'll have more use for them when you get your skin back in shape.

In the meantime, slough off dead skin with a milder alternative: the exfoliating mitt-and-creamy body wash combo. You can get finely woven bath gloves at any health and beauty store for next to nothing, so stock up on these hand-y bath buddies.

I've grown an attachment to Silka Papaya Body Wash, which feels like a luxury for such a small price. Not only does it get those unsightly brown flakes of peeling skin away, it lightens the rest of my body to make the patches less noticeable. I love the yummy smell, too (nothing papaya about it).

Magic potions

After my shower, I have to slather on the richest lotion I can find (for someone with a sticky lotion aversion, this can be quite a task).

They say that necessity is the mother of invention—or improvisation, in my case—so now I'm using a product meant for the face on the uneven skin on my shoulders, chest and back. L'oreal White Perfect Double Action Concentrated Whitening Essence seems to work magic on the discolored areas of my body. I suppose the synergy of invisible peeling and whitening is the best strategy for my skin's condition.

To keep my body moisturized, and to avoid any premature peeling that would leave my skin feeling raw and sore, I use a cooling lotion in place of my usual body oil, since the latter tends to trap heat, giving me more discomfort.

I rely on my after-sun staple, the ultra-rich Phytomer Instant Repair Soothing Moisturizing After-Sun Milk. The product works almost on a time-release system, because I still feel moisturized until the end of the day, even in harsh airconditioning.

Face savers

It's a blessing my face seems to have a built-in defense against extreme sun attacks—I'm

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PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION
Extreme Marketing Challenge:
The Road to Convergence
May 25-26, 2005
Westin Philippine Plaza

As the Philippines and the Asean region continue to suffer economic, social, and political blows, it has become imperative for marketers to come up with philosophies, strategies, and campaigns that will push their brands to the limits in the face of extreme marketing challenges.

The Philippine Marketing Association seeks to aid marketers as they meet these challenges by focusing on the theme "Extreme Marketing Challenge: The Road to Convergence" for its 36th National Marketing Conference which will be held starting today at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

"The Asean region, particularly the Philippines, has been suffering from crisis after crisis that has wrought major socio-economic and financial burdens on businesses, making it difficult for them to recover, much less prosper," said Donald Lim, president of the Philippine Marketing Association.

"It is the goal of the National Marketing Conference Committee to first, untiringly find short-term solutions to confront the numerous crises that continue to haunt and threaten business recovery and survival; second, to prepare these businesses to battle global players with advanced tactics and machineries," said Pamela Adriano, director of the National Marketing Conference Committee.

The Committee has invited local and foreign marketing experts who will discuss how marketers can respond to extreme marketing challenges by pushing their brands to the limits, going beyond market expectations and conquering the interests and purchasing powers of consumers.

Some of the foreign marketing experts who will speak during the Conference are World Marketing Association president Hermawan. Kartajaya, who would be talking about "Mega Formulas for Extreme Marketing from a Marketing Guru," and Christophe Bezu, chief ex-

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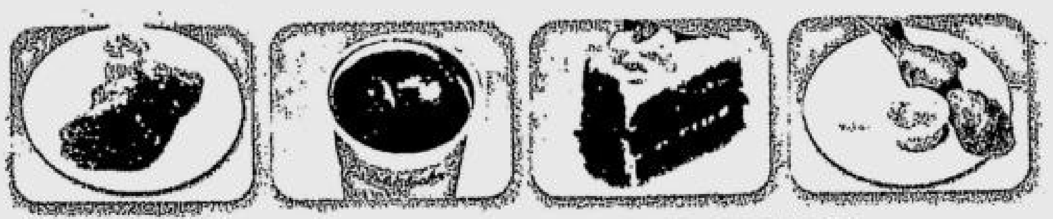

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Messages

THE PHILIPPINE Marketing Association unfurls its 36th National Marketing Conference with its theme "Extreme Marketing Challenge: The Road to Convergence". Staying true to our advocacy this year of shaping Filipinos to be world class marketers, this year's conference will indoctrinate everyone with the principles of marketing convergence, why and how it is happening, and how everyone can take advantage of this new marketing trend.

In this conference, we have brought in marketing gurus from around the world who have mastered the art of convergence, who brought with them success stories that all of us can learn from. It would definitely be two days of learning from the masters and great networking with all the marketers coming from different industries.

Let us all take advantage of this once in a lifetime experience. See you all there!

DONALD PATRICK L. LIM
President
Philippine Marketing Association

IN ITS 51ST YEAR, the Philippine Marketing Association sees the need to sow the seeds for the next 50 years in Philippine marketing. In this huge task, we are faced by giant challenges that necessitate the use of traditionally basic and technologically advance approaches.

Today, we celebrate the start of the 36th National Marketing Conference of the Philippine Marketing Association. Just like in the past years, the goal of this Conference is to help present and future marketers respond to challenges of the times, more so preparing them by laying the groundwork for the next 50 years.

To start the spin, the 36th National Marketing Conference focuses on the theme "Extreme Marketing Challenge: The Road to Convergence". This presents marketers with critically needed approaches to face the current extreme marketing challenges owing to the social, political, and economic crisis to better hurdle the greater tasks towards convergence.

It is my wish that the participants of this year's Conference will go back to their respective organizations armed with significant information and knowledge that will enable them to go to the extreme and win in the face of crisis and yet be ready to face the more challenging tasks that lies ahead.

Welcome and God bless you all!

PAMELA SANCHEZ-ADRIANO
Chair, National Marketing Conference
2005 Executive Vice President

CONVERGENCE. It is a major driver of change, which has transformed the way we do business and the "rules of the game."

Today, much market shaping and competitive driving occur where markets intersect. The road to convergence has paved the way for competition to become more multi-dimensional in providing products and services that encompass customers' various needs. In this fast paced environment, key core capabilities have to be further addressed - companies have to reinvent themselves to sustain market visibility, build their brands on deeper foundations, define competition more broadly, and enhance customer relationships. Market convergence is a powerful catalyst that organizations can utilize to remain buoyant in the business.

On behalf of the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation (PMF), I would like to commend the Philippine Marketing Association, Inc. (PMA) for spearheading another successful National Marketing Conference! As dynamic marketing professionals, let us buckle up as we take the bustling business landscape to the next level through the "Road to Convergence."

JOSE JESUS F. ROCES
President
Asia Pacific Marketing Federation

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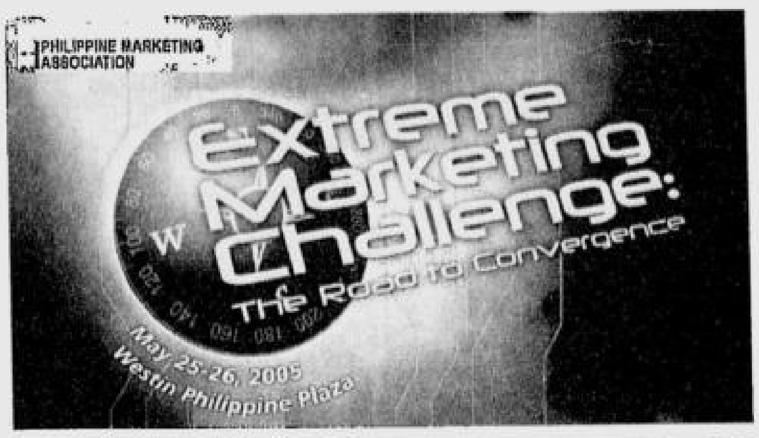

Philippine Marketing Association 36th National Marketing Conference May 25 - 26, 2005 Westin Philippine Plaza

Extreme Marketing Challenge : The Road to Convergence

DAY 1 : May 25, 2005

Session Chair: DR. NICK C. FONTANILLA
President, The Asia Pacific Center for Research
Morning Sessions

8:00 - 9:30 Registration/ Networking/ Morning Coffee

9:30 - 10 : 15 Opening Ceremonies
Keynote Speaker MR. ROBERTO DE OCAMPO
President, Asian Institute of Management (AIM)

10:15- 11:15 Session One :
A Business Philosophy for Extreme Marketing: Pushing Your Limits in a Crisis Economy
(A presentation on the business philosophies surrounding extreme marketing that have maximized marketing potentials in a challenging convergent environment aptly applied to the Asian Region as well as the local scenarios)

Speaker: Mr. Bienvenido Policarpio
Executive Vice President, Prudential Group of Companies
President, Dale Carnegie Philippines

11:15- 12:15 Session Two:
Customer Relationship Management: Building Technology to the Extreme

Speaker: Mr. Mark Yambot
Director for Corporate Affairs
Microsoft Philippines, Inc.

Lunch Break
Afternoon Sessions

1:30 - 1:45 Ice Breaker

1:45 - 2:45 Session Three :
Pain Makes Gains : Pharmaceutical Companies Going Beyond Pain
(Proven local brand strategic applications in the pharmaceutical business that challenge global market leaders and players in creating ideal synergies for a convergent market).

Speaker: Mr. Carlos "Do" Ejercito
President
United Laboratories Group

2:45 - 3:45 Session Four :
The New Empire : Shaping the Future of High- Rise Condominiums
(Guiding principles in braving the battle against big brothers in the real estate business despite the threatening and unstable socio-economic scenarios affecting business growth)

Speaker: Mr. Luke Tan
Director, Investor Relation
Megaworld

3:45 - 4 :00 Break

4:00 - 5 :00 Session Five :
Challenging Global Brands through Sports Marketing Events
(Creative marketing executions that enliven the palette of consumers using convergent applications of events marketing thus bringing product promotion to extremely challenging standards).

Speaker: Mr. Christophe Bezu
Chief Executive Officer
Adidas Region Asia Pacific

5:00 - 5:15 Recap by Session Chair

Day 2 : May 26, 2005

Session Chair: DR. KAREN DE ASIS
Marketing Director / Professor, Professional School, Inc.
De La Salle University

Morning Sessions :

8:00 - 9:15 Networking Coffee

9:15 - 10 :15 Session Six :
Mega Formulas for Extreme Marketing from a Marketing Guru
(A discussion on strategic principles of extreme marketing as presented by the world-reknowned Hermawan Kartajaya)

Speaker: Mr. Hermawan Kartajaya
President & Leading Service Officer
MarkPlus&Co.

10:15 - 11:15 Session Seven:
New Rules in Market Leadership : Success Stories in Non-traditional Bank Marketing
Non-traditional rules applied to traditionally common practices that have created raves in the banking sector.

Speaker: Mr. Tomas Victor Mendoza
Senior Assistant Vice President
Banco de Oro Universal Bank

11:15 - 12:15 Session Eight :
The New Imperative in Today's Convergence in Marketing: Sustainable Growth
(A closer look at the "must haves" in dealing with the challenges of convergence in marketing for businesses to thrive and achieve sustainable growth.)

Speaker: Mr. Gavin Coombes
Vice President
Euro RSCG Asia Pacific

Lunch Break

Afternoon Sessions
1:00- 1:15 Ice Breaker 2

1:15 - 1:30 Agora Awards Launch / Other PMA Activities

1:30 - 2:30 Session Nine:
Mall Mania: Shop Until You Drop !
(Revelations in the bullet-speed growth of the retail industry and the magnetic attraction of a converging business to a market mix of unique styles but common interests)

Speaker: Ms. Grace F. Magno
Head of Marketing
Araneta Group of Companies

2:30- 3:30 Session Ten:
Advertising Convergence: Bringing Filipino Consumers Closer to the Brand through Humor
(A compilation of the interesting facets of humor in advertising that has sent light messages to the market but delivered solid bottom results to target sales.)

Speaker Mr. Joselito B. Ortega
Chairman & CEO
BrandLab, Inc.

3:30 - 3:45 Break

3:45 - 4:30 Session Eleven :
Creativity on the Edge : Media & Marketing Convergence
(Strategic partnering innovations that unify media creativity and marketing excellence gearing to meet the challenge of convergence)

Speaker: Mr. Nicanor C. Gabunada, Jr.
Senior Vice President, Integrated Sales & Marketing
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation

5:15 - 5:45 Closing Session:
The Road to Recovery through Market Convergence
(A presentation of ingenuous approaches for business revivals and growth in a converging market)

Speaker: Mr. Jose Jesus F. Roces
Professor, Asian Institute of Management (AIM)
President, Asia Pacific Marketing Federation (APMF)

5:45 - 6:00 Recap by Session Chair

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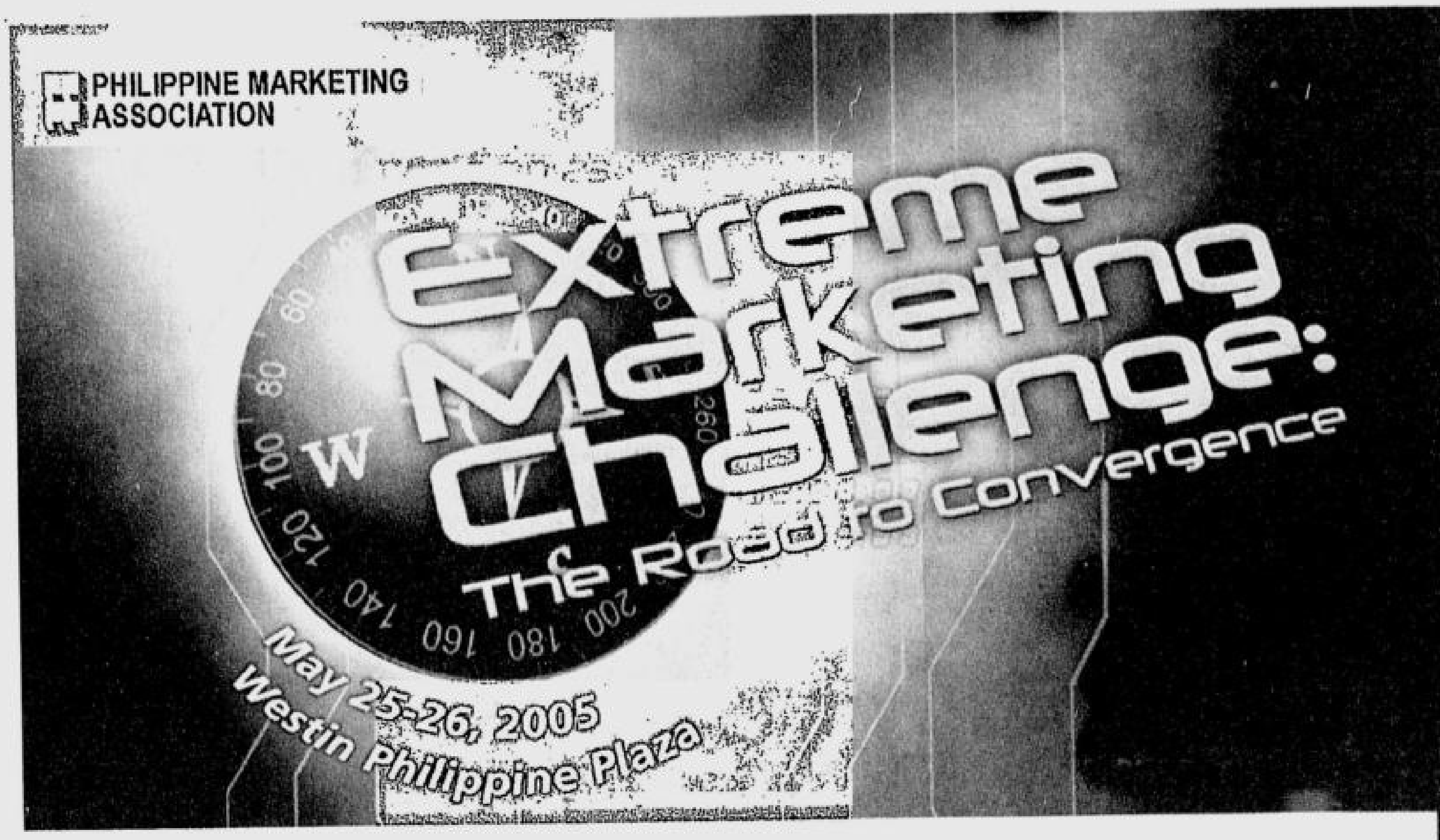

From page F1

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Policarpio will be discussing some of the business philosophies surrounding extreme marketing that have maximized marketing potentials in a challenging convergent environment aptly applied to the Asian region, particularly the Philippines.

Gabunada will discuss creative ways for marketers to effectively rise above the clutter in promoting their brands. The conference will be concluded by Jose Jesus Roces, president of the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation and a former president of the Philippine Marketing Association. He will discuss ingenuous approqches for business revivals and growth in a converging market.

This year's Conference is expected to gather more than a thousand marketing professionals from various industries as well as delegates from the academe.

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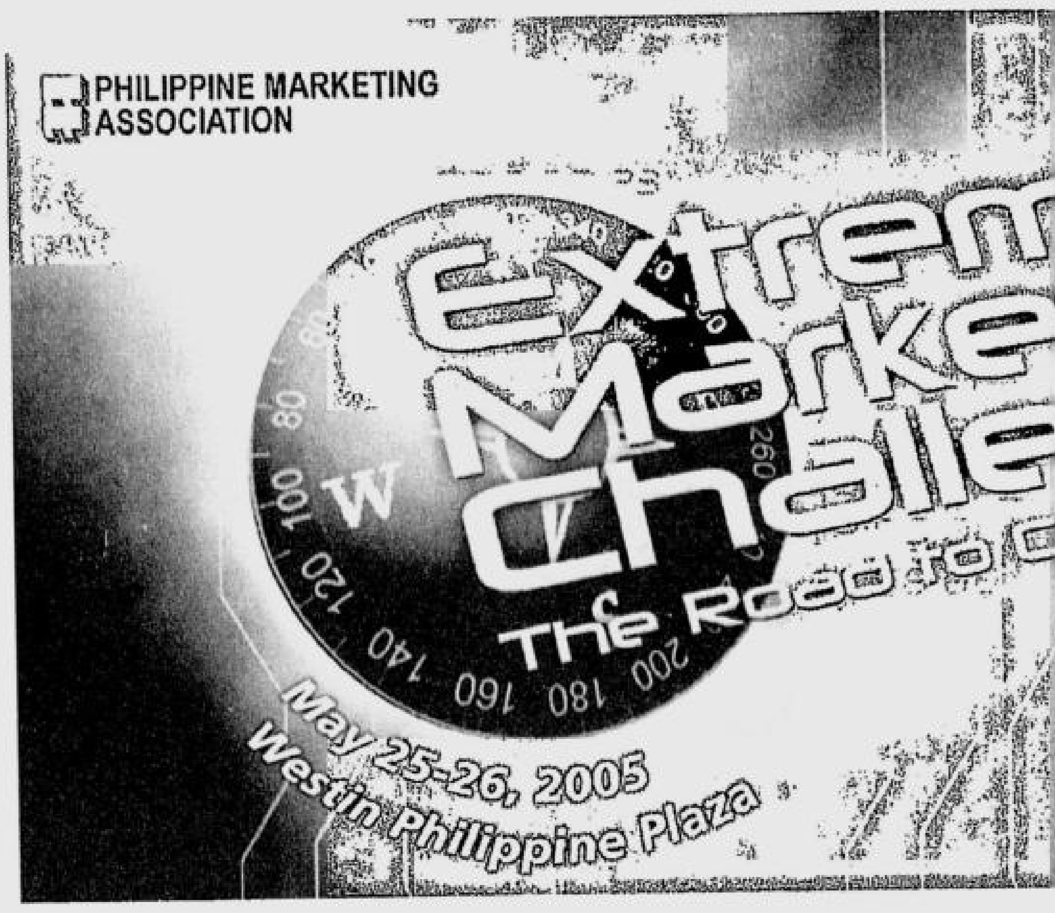

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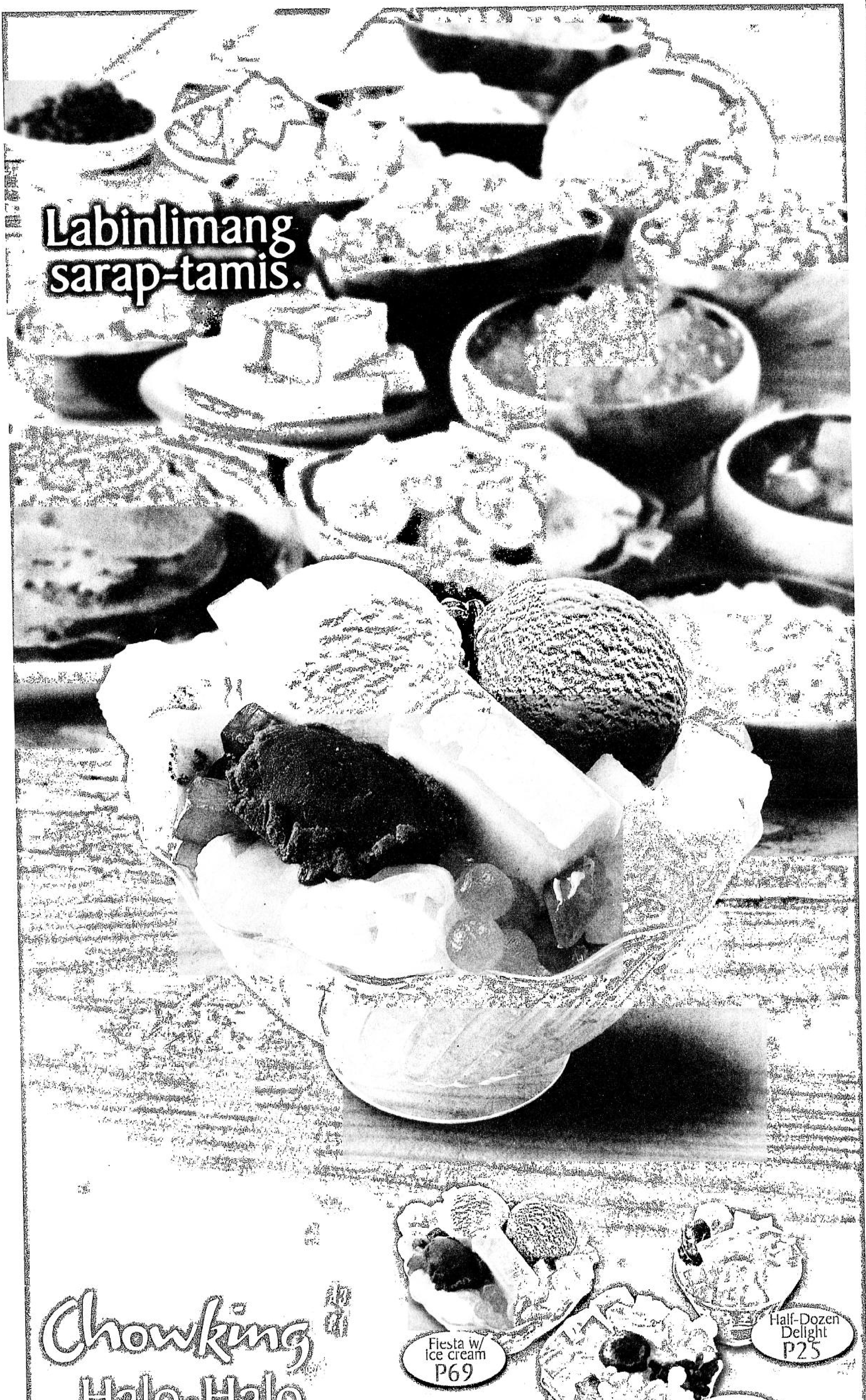
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